ACF Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation

PROGRESS SNAPSHOT:
RWANDA

Section 1: National Food System Snapshot

Category	Rwanda
Top three commodities produced (2023)	Bananas – 2.3MT Fresh cassava – 1.3MT Sweet potatoes – 1.3MT
GDP and agriculture as % (2024)	$14.3bn (of which agriculture is 24.58%)
Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the total (2024)	17%
Prevalence of undernourishment (3-year average) (2022-24)	24%
Land use for agriculture as % (2023)	76.3%
Agri-food systems greenhouse gas emissions (2022)	8.2MT
Total population and % employed in agriculture (2022)	14.3 million (55% employed in agriculture)



Aerial view of farmland over Rwanda

Photo by Rwanda Lens

Section 2: Membership Criteria Progress

National Pathways	PSTA-5, Rwanda's 2024 strategic plan for Agriculture Transformation, includes ambitious targets across the ACF's ten priority action areas, including halving undernourishment and food insecurity.
NDCs & NBSAPs	Rwanda's NDC 3.0, launched at COP30, 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.
Reporting	Rwanda's full progress report covering action against all ten priority action areas can be found in the Progress Framework accompanying this Snapshot.

Section 3: Priority Action Areas Highlights

10 Priority Action Areas	Flagship initiatives/ activities
3. Build and enhance the resilience of food systems	An agriculture insurance scheme helps Rwandan farmers to better manage the impacts of climate change. Since 2019, the government has invested RWF 1.7bn (c.$1.2m) in subsidies, RWF 2.5 billion (c.$1.7m) has been paid out in compensation, and farmers have received up to RWF 2bn (c.$1.4m) in agricultural loans using insurance as collateral. Rwanda has also committed to increase by 10-fold to 10,000 hectares the area under conservation agriculture 2028/2029 and increase agricultural land under irrigation schemes by 45,000 hectares by 2029, alongside the scaling up of small-scale and water-efficient irrigation technologies, enhancing farmers' resilience to drought and rainfall variability.
5. Protect and restore nature	Rwanda has endorsed the global goal to protect 30% of land and sea by 2030 and 50% by 2050 and has committed to more than doubling (to 2% of GDP) resources for biodiversity preservation. In addition to this, 2 million hectares of landscape are currently being restored, enhancing crop yields and forest products whilst reducing emissions by 190MT CO2e/year.
8. Reduce food loss and waste	Rwanda has an extremely ambitious food loss and waste reduction target of over 65% by 2029. The government is working to establish 555 food crop storage facilities, 120 cold storage facilities, 141 mobile cereal dryers, 765 rice and wheat drying grounds and almost 1,200 maize and bean drying shelters, with all targets tracked and transparently reported on through PSTA-5.



Wheat fields, Rwanda

Photo by Safari Consoler

Section 4: Collaborations

1. Since February 2024 Rwanda has been working with FAO to enhance the capacity of women and youth in agrifood systems, via the "Harnessing SDG-based Agrifood System Transformation through the Empowerment of the Next-Generation of Agrifood Leadership in Africa" ('HASTEN') project. This includes a focus on nutrition and inclusive value chains.

2. In June 2025, Rwanda's Ministry of Agriculture, the Rwanda Green Fund and IFC launched a climate smart agriculture investment plan, identifying RWF450bn (c.USD335m) of private-sector investment opportunities. This focuses on irrigation/water supply, climate-resilient planting, post-harvest loss reduction, climate-resilient livestock and soil health.

3. In February 2025 Rwanda's Ministry of Information, Communication Technology and Innovation and AGRA established the Rwanda Food Innovation Hub. This will focus on empowering smallholders, developing and expanding inclusive markets, increasing access to financing solutions and enhancing climate adaptation through innovation.

4. Rwanda has also invested significantly in strengthening cross-sectoral coordination across government, bringing together the departments of social protection, health, agriculture, and education with a particular focus on enhancing nutritional outcomes.

Section 5: Priorities for Further Work

PSTA5 shifts Rwanda's focus decisively away from a production-centric approach to one that is centred around making the entire food system more resilient, inclusive, market-oriented, and nutrition- and climate-smart. Priorities include:

- Strengthening key agri-food systems enablers (e.g. institutional reform, digital transformation, increased financing and extension services)
- Embedding nutrition as a key cross-cutting objective
- Consolidating and modernising production through the establishment of 'Agrihubs' and 'Food Basket Sites'
- Scaling climate-smart agricultural practices through expanded irrigation water management, improved soil health and conservation agriculture.

Section 6: Priority Areas for Investment

PSTA 5 sets a total financing requirement of approximately RWF6.4trn (c.£ 5bn) over five years up to 2029, with around 40% of this expected to come from the private sector. The Plan's investments are structured around five areas:

1. Climate-resilient and sustainable production systems
2. Inclusive market systems, value addition and post-harvest infrastructure
3. Nutrition, food safety and diet quality
4. Enabling environment, institutions and human capital
5. Innovation, research and private-sector investment mobilisation.