ACF Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation

PROGRESS SNAPSHOT 2026

RWANDA

> **"As Africans we have a common shared homework, to transform our food systems. We can achieve more when we work together"**
>
> Dr. Telesphore Ndabamenye, Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources.

HIGHLIGHTS

1	**An agriculture plan backed by investment:** Rwanda's Fifth Strategic Plan for Agriculture Transformation (PSTA 5) organises delivery around key value chains and 13,379 Food Basket Sites, backed by a US$335.4 million Climate-Smart Agriculture Investment Plan. This includes catchment protection to secure water for farming in eastern Rwanda.
2	**Whole-of-government delivery:** the Rwanda Country Platform coordinates food systems action with the Ministry of Finance, and the agriculture and environment ministries plan jointly, including on Rwanda's food-systems-focused NDC 3.0.
3	**Restoring land at scale:** Rwanda plans a near-tenfold expansion of conservation agriculture by 2029, already has more than 1.17 million hectares under terraces, and aims to restore 600,000 hectares of degraded land and inland waters by 2029.

Headline Areas of Progress in 2026

INDICATOR	BASELINE	LATEST	DIRECTION
Moderate food insecurity (FIES)	18.8% (2022)	**16% (2024)**	▼ Improving
Poverty headcount	39.8% (2017)	**27.4% (2024)**	▼ Improving
Land under terraces (radical and progressive)	1.15 million ha (2023)	**1.17 million ha (2024)**	▲ Improving
Post-harvest losses	16.4% (2019)	**13.8% (2023)**	▼ Improving
Agri-food system GHG emissions (kt CO2e)	8,480 (2021)	**8,269 (2022)**	▼ Improving
National budget for agriculture (RWF)	210.7 billion (2024/25)	**305 billion (2026/27)**	▲ Increasing

Country context

Agriculture is a major driver of the Rwandan economy, contributing 20% to GDP and employing 35% of the population and 76% of land use. The top three commodities produced are bananas, cassava and sweet potatoes.

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 of foreign 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.

INDICATOR	RWANDA	SOURCE
Top three commodities produced (2024)	**Bananas: 2.44 MT; Sweet potatoes: 1.40 MT; Cassava: 1.30 MT**	*FAOSTAT*
GDP and agriculture as % (2025)	**USD 16,372m (agriculture: 20.3%)**	*World in Data/ World Bank*
Global Food Security Index (2022)	**88th of 113**	*Economist Impact*
Prevalence of undernourishment (2023-25)	**22.6%**	*FAOSTAT*
Land use for agriculture as % (2023)	**76.3%**	*World Bank*
Emissions from agri-food systems (2022)	**8,269 kT CO2eq**	*FSCI*
Total population and % employed in agriculture (2026)	**14.6 million (35% in agriculture)**	*World Bank*



KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN 2025/26

Rwanda **launched its NBSAP 2025–2030 in October 2025**, with 22 national targets, including restoring 600,000 hectares of degraded land and inland waters by 2029 and integrating biodiversity into agriculture.

Agriculture grew by 7% in FY 2025/26 and **the agriculture budget rises to RWF 305 billion in 2026/27**, while Rwanda scored 100% on the CAADP Process Completion Index in the 5th Biennial Review (February 2026).

Rwanda is **protecting farmers from shocks**: it is raising the urea subsidy from 30% to 45% for the 2027 season, launched a **Greenhouse Crop Insurance product** in May 2026 with a 40% premium subsidy, and secured US$33.7 million from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in November 2025 for water infrastructure and insurance in the drought-hit Eastern Province.

Rwanda is investing in landscapes and value chains:

- **Green Amayaga:** Phase one placed more than 35,900 hectares under agroforestry and sustainable land management and planted over 243,800 fruit trees; a US$20 million second phase began in May 2026.
- **Green Gicumbi Project** is supporting the production and planting of 2 million fruit trees seedlings and has support the establishment of 600 ha radical terraces, 850 ha progressive terraces, 7,400 ha of agroforestry, the rehabilitation of 1,240 ha of forest and the installation of three automated weather stations.
- **Post-harvest:** grain hubs with over 200,000 tonnes of capacity are under development, and 10 cold-room packhouses are being rehabilitated to serve more than 400,000 smallholders.



LEADERSHIP IN FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION: DRIVING AFRICA'S FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION THROUGH LEADERSHIP, INVESTMENT AND INNOVATION

Rwanda is an important convening hub for Africa's food-systems transformation agenda. It hosted the Africa Food Systems Forum (AFSF) in Kigali in September 2024 and again in September 2026. The 2026 Forum brought together more than 5,000 stakeholders from over 50 countries, including political leaders, farmers, investors, private-sector representatives, researchers, development partners, and women and youth leaders. It was held under the theme "Investing in Africa's Agri-Food Systems: Nourishing Nations · Growing Jobs · Building Resilience", placing investment, food and nutrition security, employment, and resilience at the centre of discussions on Africa's agricultural transformation

Rwanda is also a continental leader on the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) consistently ranking among the top performers in the African Union's Biennial Reviews.

The Rwanda Green Fund is recognized as one of Africa's most innovative national climate change investment funds, serving as a powerful engine for green growth. By successfully blending domestic and international capital, the fund is pioneering new ways for developing nations to finance their transition into low-carbon economies. With $364M mobilized, the Rwanda Green Fund is one of the largest sustainable finance funds in Africa. It channels finance into **climate-smart agriculture, water, renewable energy and restoration**, including the Green Amayaga and Green Gicumbi landscape projects.

