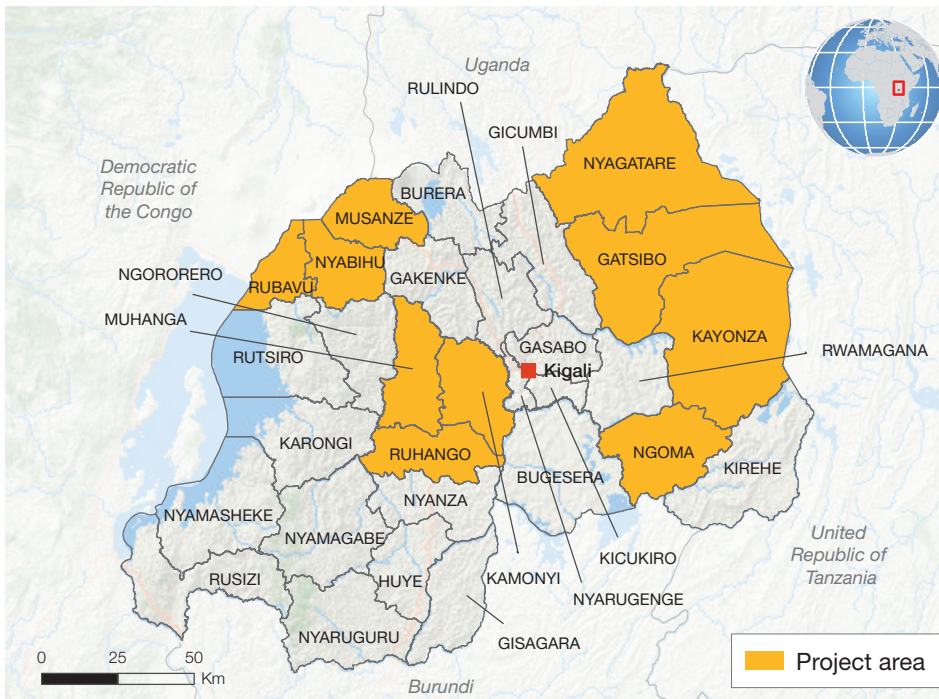


RWANDA

Post-Harvest and Agribusiness Support Project (PASP)



The designations employed and the presentation of the material in the map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IFAD concerning the delimitation of the frontiers or boundaries, or the authorities thereof.

ISSUES

The agricultural sector in Rwanda has been hit hard by climate change. Agricultural production is increasingly exposed to drought, intense and erratic rainfall, high winds and emerging seasonal and temperature shifts. If not addressed, climate variability will mean significant economic costs – estimated at up to US\$300 million annually by 2030.

Post-harvest losses are one of the greatest sources of inefficiency in agricultural production; the National Adaptation Programme of Action and the National Strategy of Rwanda on Climate Change and Low-Carbon Development highlight improved post-harvest management as a key climate change adaptation priority.

With multiple cropping systems promoted by the Government and shifts in the timings of the cropping seasons, harvesting now takes place at wetter times of the year; this means that smallholders can no longer rely on the sun to dry cereals and pulses to safe moisture content levels for storage. Similarly, in dairy value chains, water scarcity influences fodder production, and temperature fluctuations complicate the transport, cooling and safe storage of milk in the supply chain.

ACTIONS

To buffer this growing range of climate-induced stresses, ASAP support will focus on improving post-harvest processing and storage techniques, including developing the financial incentives and policy mechanisms to bring these climate risk management investments to scale. ASAP support will also provide a better understanding of how agro-meteorological conditions influence harvest and post-harvest activities, so as to take appropriate and timely action.



Investing in rural people

Adaptation for
Smallholder
Agriculture
Programme

ASAP

Launched in 2012, the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP) channels climate and environmental finance to enable smallholder farmers who participate in IFAD projects to increase their resilience. Through ASAP, IFAD is systematically integrating climate resilience into the overall IFAD portfolio.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Total cost: US\$83.4 million

Approved IFAD loan:
US\$13.5 million

ASAP grant: US\$6.9 million

Approved DSF grant:
US\$13.5 million

Project period:
5 years (2014-2018)

Executing agency:
Ministry of Agriculture and
Animal Resources (MINAGRI)
Single Project Implementation
Unit (SPIU)

ASAP beneficiaries: 155,000

Project objectives:
Increase incomes, enhance
food security and reduce
vulnerability for smallholder
farmers, particularly women
and young people.

Project activities will focus on three main components:

- **Hub capacity development programme and business coaching.** The Post-Harvest and Agribusiness Support Project (PASP) will focus on strengthening business hubs, which are the first key point where agricultural produce is assembled and processed. It will link these hubs with specialist support agencies for post-harvest activities, which will enable them to provide climate risk management services to their smallholder clients. The project will also demonstrate practices, technologies and innovations that respond to environmental and climatic challenges, such as promoting crop varieties with maturity periods better suited to changing growing seasons,, and piloting the use of solar power supplies and biogas as cost-effective approaches for drying grain.

The PASP will help to establish an agricultural meteorology function within the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI). It will work with the Rwanda Meteorological Service and the Rwanda Environment Management Authority to expand their information services to ensure that relevant and timely climate information is shared with smallholders. This will mitigate the impacts of climate variability on harvesting and drying. The Rwanda Development Board, through its focal point for the UN Climate Change Convention, will facilitate access by MINAGRI to the national climate forum and other climate-related initiatives within the Ministry of Environment.

- **Post-harvest climate-resilient agribusiness investment support.** Based on a bottom-up demand analysis by the hubs, this component will facilitate business investments, in improved, climate-resilient and low-carbon post-harvest procedures. These are expected to reduce post-harvest losses and increase the incomes of smallholders and rural labourers.
- **Project management and coordination.** This component will ensure that the project is efficiently and effectively managed to achieve the expected results. Considerations about gender equality and women's empowerment, the involvement of young people, environmental impact, knowledge management and communication will be integrated in all

aspects of project management, and activities of the implementing partners.

A climate adaptation specialist position will be established within the SPIU.

EXPECTED IMPACTS

The PASP will increase the climate resilience and food security of at least 155,000 poor smallholders. It will support 25,000 smallholder households that are engaged with participating hubs to access additional harvest and post-harvest technology options to help them reduce climate risk. The project will also achieve the following impacts through its components:

- Participating hubs have the skills and technologies, as well as access to specialized service providers, to create and operate viable businesses capable of delivering larger volumes of improved produce to the market and manage climate risks in post-production processes:
 - 80 per cent of participating hubs will develop the capacity to implement climate risk management strategies with their clients. All hub business plans will incorporate climate change adaptation and food security measures – these will include capacity-building on climate resilient processing, handling and storage techniques.
- Hub investments in climate-resilient and low carbon technologies reduce post-harvest losses and increase smallholder incomes:
 - 80 per cent of participating farmers will adopt best practices for post-harvest, crop drying/milk cooling and storage processes. These will include access to climate information services for timely harvest and drying, low carbon energy sources for drying and cooling, improved storage methods such as hermetically sealed bags, and enough pallets to keep produce off the floor and ventilated. Best practices also include codes and standards to ensure that infrastructure withstands high winds and intense rainfall events.
 - 80 per cent of participating hubs will introduce water-harvesting and management technologies and/or show significantly reduced water usage.

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