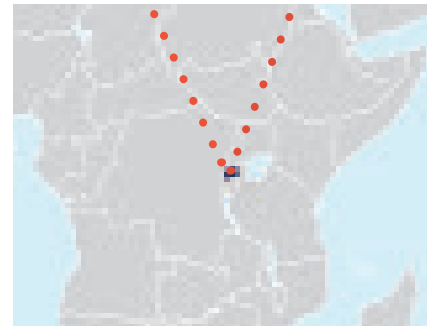




# FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative



## Feed the Future Rwanda Hinga Weze Activity

Over the past 20 years, Rwanda has made remarkable progress and the country's economy has been growing steadily at roughly eight percent since 2001.<sup>1</sup> The agricultural sector plays a central role in Rwanda's economy, accounting for 39 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), 80 percent of employment, and 90 percent of the country's food needs.<sup>2</sup>

Despite this impressive growth, significant challenges to agricultural productivity and market participation remain, including constraints on land availability for cultivation, degradation of the country's soil and natural resource base, lack of access to agricultural inputs and mechanization, and recurring extreme climatic events. The performance of the agricultural sector is closely linked to Rwanda's overall nutritional profile and undernutrition remains a pervasive problem, further impacting Rwanda's economy.

The **Feed the Future Rwanda Hinga Weze Activity** is a five-year, \$32.6 million USAID-funded project that aims to sustainably increase smallholder farmers' income, improve the nutritional status of women and children, and increase the resilience of Rwanda's agricultural and food systems to a changing climate.

1. NISR (2015) Rwanda Poverty Profile Report, 2013/14. National Institute of Statistics, Rwanda.  
2. Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (2013) Strategic Plan for the Transformation of Agriculture in Rwanda Phase III. Republic of Rwanda.

### EXPECTED IMPACT BY 2022

**560,000**  
*households directly benefiting from increased agricultural production and improved nutrition*

**200,000**  
*farmers benefiting from increases in their yields*

**4,600 ha**  
*of land benefiting from improved soil and water management practices*



# USAID

Hinga Weze works through holistic interventions that target the interrelated issues of undernutrition, food insecurity, barriers to agricultural productivity, and other challenges. Specifically, the program focuses on the sustainable intensification of Rwandan smallholder farming systems, with emphasis on climate-smart, nutrition-sensitive approaches to the production of five value chains: **high-iron beans, orange flesh sweet potato (OFSP), Irish potato, maize, and horticulture**. The project will benefit over 700,000 smallholder farmers in ten target districts: Gatsibo, Kayanza, Bugesera, Ngoma (Eastern Province); Nyabihu, Rutsiro, Ngororero, Nyamasheke, and Karongi (Western Province); and Nyamagabe (Southern Province).

### Program Approach

The Hinga Weze consortium includes a diverse group of both international and local Rwandan partner organizations, including Plan International, Souktel, Rwanda Development Organization (RDO), and the Imbaraga Farmers' Federation. The project achieves results by promoting household and community-level behavior changes through cost-effective interventions and a systems approach that prioritizes collaboration with stakeholders from the government, private and civil society sectors.

#### Key life of program targets include:

- 200,000 farmers that have increased their yield by 50 percent;
  - improved soil and water management practices on 4,600 hectares of land;
  - a 20 percent increase in the value of smallholder sales among targeted farmer beneficiary households AND/OR 40,500 households that have increased income for purchase of nutritious foods for women and children;
- 560,000 households directly benefit from increased agricultural production and improved nutrition,
  - 535,000 stakeholders that have increased capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate change as a result of USG assistance; and
  - 535,000 farmers and other that applied improved technologies or management practices.

