



INVESTING IN CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE

ARCOS Network

In 2015, the Rwanda Green Fund (FONERWA) approved an investment of close to Rwf 700 million in a broad-ranging project to provide evidence-based policy guidance and promote local actions that build climate resilience and participatory sustainable development in the Akagera Watershed in Rwanda's east. Led by the Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS Network), the project uses the water-energy and food security nexus to boost climate smart agriculture and development.

Water, energy and food production are interlinked and is crucial to adopt rational practices in regard to the latter for sustainable development. Water is used to produce energy (hydro-power), and agriculture requires water for a better production.

The Rwanda Green Fund investment in the 'Using Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus to promote climate resilient decisions and model actions in selected landscapes along Akagera Basin' project reinforces the inter-linkage between water-energy and food security nexus as a way to ensure climate resilience.





“ If the resources, especially water and energy, are used efficiently, they can yield sustainable development and ensure food security for Rwandans. **”**

Sam Kanyamibwa
Executive Director, ARCOS Network



“ We used to farm ineffectively, and had limited production. With the intervention from FONERWA through ARCOS, the harvest has tremendously increased, and now we are able to cultivate vegetables and fruits. Today, our food security is ensured and our financial capacity is growing. **”**

Adeline Nyiramajyambere,
President of Kabungeri
Cooperative in Kirehe District.

SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

The fund's investment has two components: developing research to provide evidence-based policy guidance and, promoting local actions that foster climate resilience and participatory sustainable development in the Akagera Basin.

With regard to research, the results from the participatory analysis of district's development trajectories provided guidance in mainstreaming water, energy and food nexus in District Development Strategies and the implementation plan of EDPRS II at the district level in Bugesera, Kirehe and Rutsiro. The project also works with fifteen cooperatives, which includes five cooperatives from each district.

Additionally, ARCOS' local interventions for climate resilience and sustainable development focuses on building a foundation for long-term success, through an integrated approach (named BEST Approach) built on community partnership, mind-setting and ownership of interventions, cemented by a sustainability agreement involving communities, local government and ARCOS Network, and supported by an integrated training package, based on four pillars of the BEST Approach such as (Building sustainable institutions, Enhancing environmental resilience, Sustainable business solutions and Transformation and inspiring others).

In promoting sustainable agriculture, cooperatives that work with ARCOS were supported in manure production through provision of small and large livestock (30 cows, 26 goats, 75 pigs) as well as the integration of agroforestry.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING

In a framework of learning from the best practices from each and every cooperative working with ARCOS Network, an approach of training the trainers was adopted. This approach consists of training two members from each cooperative, who in turn train others. To support this effort, ARCOS developed a training manual in Kinyarwanda, which was given to each cooperative and used to train the members.

Furthermore, ARCOS developed a community to community exchange, which includes groups in Burundi and Uganda. The groups meet every year to learn from environmental sustainability and climate resilience efforts in each every country.

The 'Using Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus to promote climate resilient decisions and model actions in selected landscapes along Akagera Basin' investment concludes in 2018.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

25

technical reports and policy briefs illustrating future development pathways for food, water and energy production to guide planning and decision-making in focal districts of Rutsiro, Ngororero, Bugesera, and Kirehe and other districts in Rwanda

2,000

stakeholders representing different development sectors operating in Rutsiro/Ngororero, Bugesera and Kirehe Districts understand and share the vision about future development pathways

850

green jobs created

2,800

hectares of watershed protected

300

members of Nature-Based Community Enterprises trained on sustainable development

13,600

people engaged to promote climate resilience and sustainability

2,800

hectares covered with permanent vegetation

14,500

people trained on the project's impact and lessons



“

The first loan was given in September 2017. A loan of Rwf 2.4 million was disbursed to eight people. Now they are doing various activities to improve their lives.

”

Vincent Mutabazi,
Village Leader,
Kabungeri

GREEN JOBS

The project has created more than 854 green jobs (21 technicians working in tree nurseries, 33 working in coffee processing, 45 working in Irish potato farming, 75 working in banana farming, 457 working in fisheries, 213 working in horticulture development).

COMMUNITY FUND

The Community Fund is an initiative that works to support financially communities at the local level, by giving loans to farmers with a low interest of 5%.

Vincent Mutabazi, President of the Community Fund in Kabungeri Village, Kirehe District, says the fund facilitates easy access to loans for everyone, even for those who are reluctant to approach other financial institutions, like banks, since their interest rates are often high.

John Matabaro is one of the beneficiaries of the community fund loan scheme and is using the loan to grow onions.

"I took a loan of Rwf 200,000 to grow onions. For now, I am waiting for the harvest. This is a life-changing investment," he said.



“ Thanks to this job, I have built my own house and paid health insurance for my family. ”

Stephen Mutimukeye,
Tree Nursery Technician
in Kirehe District.

RWANDA GREEN FUND

The Rwanda Green Fund is a national environment and climate change fund that invests in public and private projects that have the potential for transformative change and that align with Rwanda's commitment to building a green and climate resilient economy. Learn more at www.fonerwa.org or follow us on Twitter at @GreenFundRw.

FUND PARTNERS

This fund is thankful to our partners who have joined us on the journey to build a green Rwanda, and we look forward to even greater impact in the future.

