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Harvest time in Musanze, Rwanda

GERMAN GOVERNMENT AND FEDERAL STATES PROGRAMME
BUND-LÄNDER-PROGRAMM (BLP)

Federal state - partner country
Rhineland-Palatinate - Rwanda



Title
Practical implementation of the digital information system (DISA) for sustainable and climate change-oriented agriculture in Rwanda

In cooperation with the GIZ programme
Digital4Rwanda (PN: 22.2090.3)

Financing arrangements
BMZ contribution 215,000 EUR
Rhineland-Palatinate contribution 144,348 EUR

Duration
01.09.2025 - 31.12.2026

Responsible ministry
Ministry of Economic Affairs, Transport, Agriculture and Viticulture Rhineland-Palatinate

This project helps to achieve the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



Adapting to climate change using digital applications in Rwanda's agricultural sector

Local situation

Around 75% of the Rwandan population works in the agricultural sector, and women account for significantly more than half of these workers. Rwanda is facing considerable challenges to reach the overarching goals of improving food security, modernising the sector and adapting to climate change.

The extremely densely populated country is mainly farmed in the form of subsistence farming or by smallholder structures, with agricultural productivity being comparatively low. To address this situation, between 2018 and 2024 Rwanda has implemented the general guideline for the modernisation of agriculture in Rwanda, the Agricultural Development Strategy (PSTA4) to increase the economic, ecological and social resilience of agriculture. This is being done, for example, by taking into account the needs and strengthening the digital skills of women in the agricultural work process.

Cooperation arrangements

Co-financed by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Transport, Agriculture and Viticulture of Rhineland-Palatinate (MWVLW), the project's implementation partners on the German side is the Rhineland-Palatinate rural service centre (DLR RLP).

“The traditional knowledge and experience of farmers is being expanded through the use of digitally available information on weather data and cultivation recommendations. This improves their ability to adapt to climate change and ultimately increases their income and reduces the ecological footprint of agricultural production.”

Dr Volker Wenghoefer

Department of Rural Service Centres, Vocational Training and Rural Development, Ministry of Economics, Transport, Agriculture and Viticulture, Rhineland-Palatinate



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Information event for the rural population

Implementation partners in Rwanda are the Rwanda Space Agency (RSA), the Association for the Promotion of Sustainable Development in Rwanda, the Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB), the private universities Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) Africa and the Institut D’enseignement Supérieur De Ruhengeri (INES), and other private local agricultural advisors. In addition there is a close cooperation with the GIZ programme Digital4Rwanda.

What we are doing - and how

The project builds on a previous programme that supported the Rwandan Meteorological Service (Meteo Rwanda) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MINAGRI) in building capacity and knowledge for the development of agro-meteorological services for the agricultural sector.

The current project aims to improve information systems for the sector to enable (smallholder) farmers in Rwanda to become more environmentally sustainable and to adapt to climate change. To do so, it seeks to advance the development of a digital information system for Rwanda’s government institutions. The system is designed to make specific recommendations on action to increase harvest yields and reduce the use of fungicides. Two phases are being implemented to devise a data structure and a database and to

develop a digital application tailored to users’ needs. The system will subsequently be deployed and farmers will be trained on how to use it in two pilot regions. Finally, the project will be evaluated and the idea of introducing the system throughout the country will be examined.

Useful links

- Further information on the BLP:
<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/132983.html>
<https://bund-laender-programm.de/en>
- GIZ Programme “Digital4Rwanda”:
<https://www.giz.de/en/projects/digital4rwanda-digitalization-sustainable-development-rwanda>
- Partnership between Rhineland-Palatinate and Rwanda:
<https://www.rlp-ruanda.de/en/about-us/grassroot-partnership-rhineland-palatinate-rwanda/>

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