

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
AND ANIMAL RESOURCES



**BTC** RWANDA

## SUPPORT TO THE SPAT-II

# MARKET ORIENTED ADVISORY SERVICES AND QUALITY SEEDS

### BACKGROUND OF THE PROGRAM

The Rwanda government has adopted a Sector-Wide Approach (SWAp) to stimulate agricultural development. To implement this sector wide approach a Strategic Plan for Agricultural Transformation (SPAT) has been developed in 2008 (SPAT II), which follows the SPAT I that was elaborated in 2004.

The Belgian Cooperation is supporting the government of Rwanda and more specifically the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) in the achievement of the SPAT II objectives. The current program concentrates on two main areas which are (i) the seed sector and (ii) agricultural advisory services.

The 5 year program started in July 2011 and has a total budget of 18.6 million Euro.

### OBJECTIVES OF INTERVENTION

The **general objective** of the program of support to the SPAT II is:

*"Agricultural outputs and incomes increased under sustainable production systems and for all groups of farmers, and food security ensured for all the population"*

**The specific objectives are:**

*"Improved access to advisory services for crops and livestock"*

*"Improved access and use of high quality planting materials of food crops for men and women"*

## **EXPECTED RESULTS**

**Result 1:** Seed production chains of specific groups of food crops with a market value are professionalized.

**Result 2:** Increased private sector involvement in the seed sector.

**Result 3:** Sustainable mechanisms for demand articulation and responsiveness of market-oriented advisory services established.

**Result 4:** Proximity agricultural advisors capable of delivering responses to the demands of farmers, livestock keepers and their organizations trained.

**Result 5:** Lessons learned on agricultural advisory services and seed supply services documented and used in policy and decision-making.

## **SUSTAINABILITY**

The ultimate objective of the program is the building of durable systems of service delivery. Therefore, the program is fully embedded in and executed as part of the activities of MINAGRI. System building is a process that cannot be achieved without reflection and adaptation based on insights gained. The program aims to improve the system from planning to execution and will pay ample attention to learning (monitoring and evaluation) and adaptation based on this learning.

## **FOCUS ON PRIORITY CROPS & LIVESTOCK**

Advisory services and seed supply services will be focusing on marketable crops and livestock providing income to farm households. Specific emphasis will be put to assure that both men and women and all asset classes receive the services they require.

## **THE SEED SECTOR**

The seed sector intervention will be specific for different crops or groups of crops with similar opportunities. Through differentiating between groups of crops with similar opportunities more targeted and effective interventions can be developed. Six groups of crops have been distinguished: 1) Local vegetables and forage; 2) Fruit crops; 3) Cassava, banana, sweet potato; 4) Grains & pulses; 5) Potato; 6) Temperate vegetables and hybrid maize. For each crop a separate strategy will be elaborated. A balance will be struck between private sector involvement where economically feasible and public responsibilities in the production and marketing chain are necessary to safeguard availability of quality seed. Furthermore a balance will be struck between improving informal seed production systems and improving certified seed production.

## **ADVISORY SERVICES**

In advisory service, the program will build on the positive experience of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) project and continue to use the Farmer Field School (FFS) approach.

The program works from a demand driven principle. Specific emphasis is put on building the structures through which clients of advisory and seed supply services can better voice their needs.

The program will focus on building a large pool and network of non-public service providers. Furthermore it will invest in building the capacity in MINAGRI to constantly support this pool of service providers with up-to-date knowledge on didactics, technologies and business development tools. The Centre of Information and communication (CICA) will be supported to become a coordinating and resource centre in this regard, supporting the RAB zone offices in their assistance of advisory service providers.