

## **An Improved Approach to Agriculture and Food Security: Rwanda**

Rwanda has made remarkable progress over the past decade, with growth in real per capita income averaging over five percent and more than six percent in the last five years. It nevertheless remains one of the world's poorest countries with 28 percent of the rural population considered food insecure, and an additional 24 percent considered highly vulnerable to food insecurity according to a 2006 analysis.

### **Doing Business Differently in Development**

Beyond its financial contributions, the United States is committed to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of assistance and being more responsive to the way the Government of Rwanda (GOR) does its business, consistent with the Paris Declaration, Accra Agenda for Action, and Rome Principles. In Rwanda, the United States is exploring how it might channel a portion of its assistance through GOR systems, including the possibilities of providing sector budget support and longer-term financing commitments that can enhance the predictability of U.S. assistance. The United States is also strengthening strategic coordination with development partners. For example, under Rwanda's Agriculture Sector Investment Plan, the United States is collaborating with the GOR and U.K. Department for International Development (DFID) on access to agricultural finance in Rwanda with a special focus on women and the very poor. Similarly, the United States is collaborating with the GOR, World Bank and other donors on a land husbandry, water harvesting, and hillside irrigation project that contributes to the largest program of the Investment Plan. Other donors are likewise aligning their support for specific sections of the Rwanda Plan based on their comparative advantages. For example, the African Development Bank is supporting infrastructure and irrigation, the EU and the Netherlands are supporting agricultural research, and the WFP is continue its support for the successful Purchase for Progress program that improves smallholder farmers' access to markets.

### **Support for Country-Level Planning and Review**

In December 2009, the GOR became the first country to submit an Agriculture Sector Investment Plan for technical review under the auspices of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP), a program of the African Union's New Partnership for Africa's Development (AU/NePAD). The Investment Plan was reviewed by AU/NePAD and other stakeholders, including the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), several African Ministers of Agriculture, and Rwanda's Agriculture Sector Working Group. The review coincided with a high-level meeting in Kigali with representation from a broad group of stakeholders including donor countries, the private sector, civil society, and multilateral institutions. The AU/NePAD endorsed the Investment Plan for its technical soundness and by the end of the meeting donors were pledging their support and organizing to accelerate its implementation. Simulations performed by IFPRI suggest that the Plan, if fully funded and efficiently implemented, could deliver the 6.5 percent sustained growth necessary to cut poverty in half by 2020 in Rwanda.

### **Mobilizing Resources to Support Country Plans**

The GOR has proposed allocating nearly 7 percent of its national budget to agriculture in FY 2010, demonstrating substantial progress towards the CAADP target of 10 percent. In April 2010, the United States pledged \$25 million for agriculture programs and \$2 million for nutrition programs in FY 2010 and announced a request of \$47 million for agriculture and \$7 million for nutrition in FY 2011. Complementing these actions, the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program has awarded Rwanda \$50 million to transform hillside agriculture by reducing erosion and bolster productivity in an environmentally sustainable manner. In total, international donors

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have committed \$325 million in support of the Rwanda Investment Plan, which is valued at \$815 million. The Plan is now two-thirds funded through government, donor, and private sector commitments.