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Context

Burundi is a landlocked country at the heart of Africa's Great Lakes Region, between the River Nile Basin draining east and the Congo River Basin draining west into Lake Tanganyika. Burundi is characterised by an inadequate infrastructure network, a very low human development index (184th/188), a general lack of capacity, weak governance and high vulnerability to external shocks. Burundi is one of the poorest countries in Africa; it had a GDP of US\$171 per capita in 2011, nearly 70% of the population lives below the poverty line of US\$1 per day per person, and 85% of households face daily food insecurity.

Burundi's economy is dominated by small-scale, predominantly rain-fed subsistence agriculture, practised by more than 90% of the total population, and occupying 50% of the country's land area. Land degradation in Burundi's highlands is leading to a decline in agricultural production and a loss of agrobiodiversity. This is contributing to food shortages and food insecurity, chronic malnutrition, land and social conflicts, poverty, rural-urban migration and increased vulnerability to climate change.



Objective

The objective of the project is the expansion of the adoption of resilient, improved production systems for sustainable food security and nutrition through integrated landscape management and sustainable food value chains.

Support for Sustainable Food Production and Enhancement of Food Security and Climate Resilience in Burundi's Highlands

Burundi

Resilient Food Systems is one of the three Integrated Approach Pilots funded by the Global Environment Facility. Implementation is led by the International Fund for Agricultural Development, in collaboration with 12 African countries and several regional partners. The five-year programme is committed to **fostering sustainability and resilience for food security in sub-Saharan Africa**.

As an integral part of this regional initiative, the **Sustainable Food Production Project** in Burundi is contributing to the collective impact of the Resilient Food Systems Programme.



Project area for Burundi

Global Environmental Benefits

GEBs



80,000 (ha)
land under integrated and sustainable management



1,200,000 (MtCO₂e)
GHG emissions avoided or reduced



15-25 (%)
genetic diversity of crops and animals
maintained or increased

Key components

The project is based on the three following components:

1. A strengthened institutional framework and support mechanisms;
2. Improved livelihoods and food security through integrated watershed management, competent producers' organisations and sustainable food systems; and
3. Monitoring and assessment of global environmental benefits and socio-economic impacts to inform decision-making.

Expected impacts



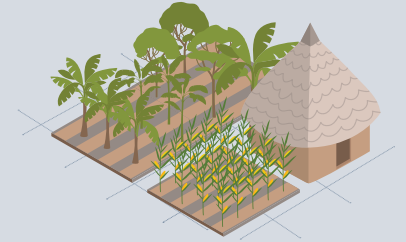
Through having 80,000 M ha under sustainable land management (SLM), the project delivers multiple GEBs:

- Firstly, there is an increase in diversified cropland productivity.



The project delivers further GEBs in conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity:

- There is a focus on key neglected and orphan crops across intervention areas, such as taro, *Colocasia esculenta*; finger millet, *Eleusine coracana*; cowpea, *Vigna unguiculata*; and pigeon pea, *Cajanus cajan*.



Carbon benefits are delivered by increasing the amount of biomass, soil organic carbon and tree cover in the project area:

- Direct benefits over a duration of 5 years of 120,000 tonnes of CO₂e.
- Indirect benefits over a duration of 20 years of 1.8 million tonnes of CO₂e from the increase of tree cover.
- 560,000 tonnes of CO₂e from on-farm biomass and agriculture crops.

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Resilient Food Systems

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Innovation

The project is innovative in that it promotes a multi-sectoral approach and coordination at various levels for sustainable land management (SLM). Policy platforms and knowledge sharing mechanisms help in establishing national and local level support systems. Different and innovative tools, in particular to measure resilience, are used. The project interventions seek a viable anchor within existing local and institutional systems, such as local community planning systems, to create favourable conditions for sustainability. The lessons and good practices can be capitalised on by the Farmer Field Schools (FFS), are replicable, and can be scaled out in collaboration with co-financing partners. The systematisation of knowledge management, through platforms and various tools, supports the replication and scaling up of project results, both in the country and across the region targeted by the Resilient Food Systems (RFS) programme.

Stakeholders engaged

The project falls under the financial oversight of the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Development and the technical oversight of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Development. Other key stakeholders include:

- At the national level:
 - The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MINAGRIE) is the lead government counterpart and coordinating agency for this project, working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Water, Environment, Spatial and Urban Planning (MEEATU)
- At the provincial level:
 - The decentralised structures of the above two ministries connect with the Provincial Directorates of Agriculture and Livestock (DPAE) and the Burundi Office for the Protection of the Environment (OBPE)
- At the communal level:
 - The project interventions are supervised by the communal agronomist/zonal agronomist
 - The capacities of the FFS, cooperatives and watershed committees are being reinforced to support local communities (the main beneficiaries of the project)

