



# Contribution of Agriculture programme to improve working and living conditions of families in Rwanda

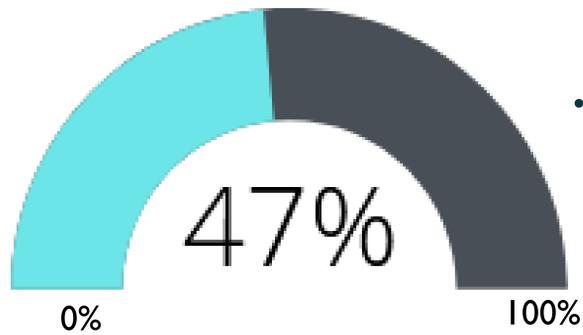


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## Issues

- Around 85% of the Rwandan population still lives in rural areas and many of the poor and extreme poor belong to this demographic group. Rwanda's poverty profile (EICV 2013/2014).



- Of the female headed households living in poverty, compared to the national average of 44.9%.

- Ensuring sustainable growth and poverty reduction nationwide continues to be a key challenge, with the main target of reducing poverty from 44.9% to 30% by 2018, which requires the country to also look at ways of increasing agricultural productivity.

## Description

- In 2007, Imbuto Foundation introduced the Support to family initiative (SUFI) programme as a new intervention targeting most vulnerable people especially widows and child-headed households for improving their living conditions.
- This programme was implemented by Imbuto Foundation through psycho-social support and income generating activities.
- In partnership, with UN WOMEN, in 2011 SUFI became an IMALI programme and has been implementing horticulture interventions in Green Houses.



- IMALI programme trained cooperative members on growing tomatoes in greenhouses, finance literacy, cooperative management, marketing skills and opportunities.

• More than 1 million RWF received per cooperative as start-up fund.

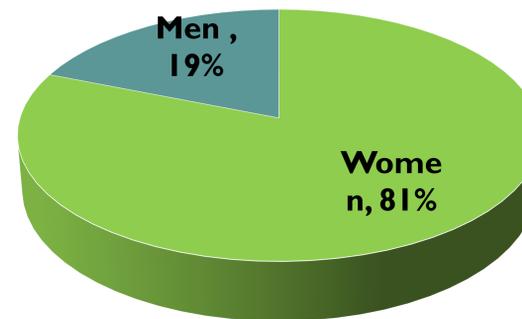
• More than 8 million RWF for greenhouses agricultural activities per cooperative.

**Data collection:** • Data was collected through cooperatives in monitoring routine.

**Data Analysis:** • Descriptive analysis have been generated using SPSS version 25 and Microsoft Excel.

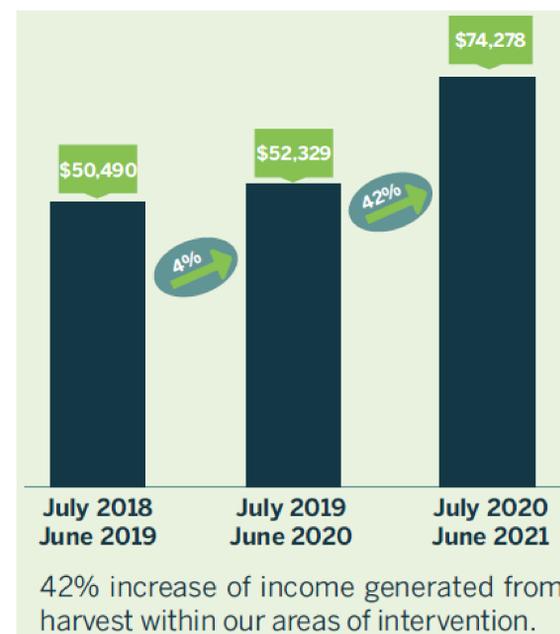
## Lessons Learned

- % distribution of IMALI beneficiaries.



- **3,410 farmers:** 2,890 women (81%) and 520 men (19%) from 37 cooperatives directly benefited from agriculture interventions.
- 508 farmers from 18 cooperatives in Kirehe, Ngoma and Nyaruguru trained in agriculture techniques, entrepreneurship and leadership.

- Income generated by 37 cooperatives.



- Cooperatives benefiting from our programme connected to markets
- 92,929 kgs of tomatoes, maize, beans, soja, vegetables, fruits harvested from 18 cooperatives
- Rwf 22,114,310 (US\$ 22,405) generated from selling maize, beans, soja, vegetables, tomatoes, fruits.

- A booklet summarizing women's land rights and most effective productive use of land resources was published and 4,550 copies distributed in 30 districts.
- 287 booklets on agriculture techniques and growing crops (cabbage, carrot, green beans, and onions) distributed to 18 cooperatives.

## Next Steps

- For sustainability purpose, the IMALI project should continue to support rural women and youth economic empowerment with the main objective of improving the livelihood of these groups.
- This would be achieved by increasing beneficiaries' income through value addition of their farming production.
- This serves as a contribution to poverty reduction including improving beneficiary's nutrition and increasing employment among youth in Rwanda.

- **Key words:** Agriculture, cooperatives, Income generating activity.

- **For more information:** [www.imbutofoundation.org](http://www.imbutofoundation.org)