AGRF 2021 SUMMIT
Pathways to recovery and resilient food systems

Session title:	An Integrated Approach to Address Climate and Food Security Challenges in Rwanda
Session number:	24
Type of session:	Zoom Internal Session
Day:	Monday, 6 September 2021
Time:	14:30-16:15 EAT
No. of participants:	27
Session Organizers:	Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture (CNFA)
Moderator:	Margaret Anderson, Senior Program Director
Rapporteur:	Margaret Anderson, Senior Program Director
Relevant outcome:	• Hinga Weze offers sustainable approaches to increasing cultivation of nutrient rich value chains, which increases availability of affordable nutritious foods in local markets and increases earnings for smallholder producers. • Local private sector enterprises (seed supplier, poultry companies) are key partners. • Environmentally sustainable solutions like irrigation technologies that use solar pumps - are a key piece of climate resilient ag production
Objectives:	The interactive AGRF session "An Integrated Approach to Address Climate and Food Security Challenges in Rwanda" will describe the Feed the Future Rwanda Hinga Weze Activity's integrated approach to advance climate and nutrition sensitive agriculture by sustainably increasing incomes, productivity and market access for smallholder farmers. Panelists will describe how Hinga Weze, implemented by CNFA and funded by USAID, has built resilience to climate change and increased the availability of nutritious foods—addressing key questions such as how climate change affects farmers in Rwanda and which climate-smart agriculture approaches and strategies best address climate shocks while improving food security.
Speakers: (*Name, Title, Organization)	

1. Ms. Laurence Mukamana, Deputy Chief of Party, Feed the Future Rwanda Hinga Weze Project, Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture (CNFA)
2. Mr. Jean de Dieu Umutoni, Director of Business, Market, and Finance Development, Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture (CNFA)
3. Dr. Telesphore Ndabamenye, Embedded Advisor, Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Agriculture Policies and Strategic Planning, Rwanda
4. Ms. Margaret Anderson, Senior Program Director, CNFA (Moderator)

Main highlights:

(*For Insights and newsletter. To be based on the theme of the day. Fill in in bullet form)

- Key solutions to low productivity in Rwanda surround efforts to improve soil health
- An integrated proposition to simultaneously increase productivity, improve farmers' market access and improve consumption of nutritious food is a hallmark of the food systems approach to climate resilience for smallholder farmers in Rwanda
- Many of the lessons in Rwanda apply to other country contexts

KEY CHALLENGES

- Rwanda struggles with productive infrastructure problems
- Lack of irrigation equipment, terracing infrastructure to valorize land
- Lack of access to finance among farmers to procure input and improve soil quality

INNOVATIONS PROPOSED

- Innovations proposed include increase in productive infrastructure, irrigation system, mobile irrigation pumps, various types of irrigation for valorization landscape transformation
- Promotion of a training-of-trainers methodology to improve post-harvest handling techniques
- Private sector partnerships to promote low-cost post-harvest technologies like moisture meters and hermetic sealing technologies bags

RECOMMENDATIONS/ NEXT STEPS

- Continue to improve soil health and productivity with organic compounds, agroforestry
- Promote environmentally friendly solution to increase ag productivity like terracing
- Continue research to identify the problems and real needs of communities
- Responses must engage women and youth in the community to achieve the best outcome

Session Summary:

(*To go in final report. Max 300 words. Fill in prose)

The session hosted a fruitful discussion of Hinga Weze approaches to improve agriculture productivity, future proofing farmer communities against climate change, improving farmers market access and engaging with partners in the government and private sector to achieve program outcomes. Information and communications technology emerged as a key means to improving farmers' access to market information. The Rwanda Smart Nkunganire System is an example of one such technology. Low-cost technologies such as small-scale irrigation and mobile solar irrigation pumps are important solutions to farmers in areas at risk of drought.

Tweetable quotes with timestamp:

(*For podcast and to go to AGRF Communication for social media. Minimum 3 per session)

- @USAID Rwanda Hinga Weze - IN SESSION: We are presenting our approaches to building resilient and secure #Rwandan food systems at #AGRF2021, highlighting #ClimateSmart activities that protect the planet & improve productivity & food access. @USAIDRwanda @TheAGRF https://agrf.summit.tc

How has the session contributed to the AGRF outcomes?

*(For end of AGRF communique/ Press release. List 3 - 5 top outcomes)

- In line with the thematic track of resilience and adaptation, the session covered strategies for improving farmers' resilience to climate change including productive infrastructure, crop insurance and ICT for market information
- The discussion examined Government of Rwanda priorities for climate resilience and how implementers align their programs with government strategies for climate mitigation planning
- The side event emphasized both alignment with government strategies and cooperation with private sector entities as key to developing a resilient food system

COMMITMENTS

- Hinga Weze committed to completing project work on productive infrastructure
- The Hinga Weze team emphasized the need to continue research to identify real needs of communities and understand the root causes of climate change and its impact on farmers
- The concluding discussion emphasized the need for mitigation measures and future proofing