



**JOINT PROGRAMME ON ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE  
ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL WOMEN (JP RWEE)  
COUNTRY PROGRAMME WORK PLAN FOR RWANDA  
JULY 2018 TO JUNE 2019**

<i>Total budget requested:</i>	<b>US\$ 800,000</b>
<i>Beneficiaries to be reached with this contribution:</i>	<p><b>Number of beneficiaries already targeted by the initiative:</b> 1,260 participants for the year 2017/2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Direct:</b> 1,260 (1,027 women &amp; 233 men)</li> <li>• <b>Indirect:</b> 5,418 (2,817 women and 2,601 men)</li> </ul> <p>Number of participants from the beginning of the Joint Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Direct:</b> 17,363 (9,625 women, 7,738 men).</li> <li>• <b>Indirect:</b> 83,342 (43,338 women, 40,004 men)</li> </ul> <p><b>Number of expected beneficiaries to be reached with this new contribution:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Direct:</b> 1,744 (1,341 women and 403 men)</li> <li>• <b>Indirect:</b> 8,022 (6,077 women and 1,945)</li> </ul> <p><i>Note. Targeted direct beneficiaries include 600 (420 women &amp; 180 men) new beneficiaries and 1,144(921 women and 203 men) existing beneficiaries. 116 of the 2017 beneficiaries ( 106 women and 10 men) will no longer benefit directly from the joint program</i></p>
<i>Duration of project:</i>	<b>1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019</b>
<i>UN Participating Agencies:</i>	<b>FAO, IFAD, WFP and UN Women</b>
<i>Other Partners:</i>	Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resource (MINAGRI), Rwanda Cooperative Agency (RCA), Districts and Sectors Agronomists NGOs (Implementing partners).

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## 1. Background Information

Agriculture remains central to the Rwandan economy. More than 30% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and nearly 50% of all exports are generated by the agricultural sector<sup>1</sup>. The sector is a priority in the government's long-term vision to transition to a middle-income country, and the focus of key Rwandan policies and strategic documents is to move agriculture from a low production, subsistence-based to a market-oriented, value-creating sector that increases rural incomes, improves the security of livelihoods and the quality of life of Rwanda's rural population. However, a persisting gender gap in agriculture threatens these goals. The agriculture sector employs the majority of Rwandan workers (68%), with women representing 79% of the total agricultural labour force<sup>2</sup>. Though an integral part of the agriculture sector, women farmers don't benefit from equal access to farm inputs, agricultural extension services and finance. Women farmers' production potential therefore remains untapped, limiting their ability to take full advantage of on- and off-farm or formal market access in the agriculture sector.

### **JP RWEE alignment to National development priorities and the Rwandan UNDAF 2**

The 2018/2019 JP RWEE work plan was mainly informed by the above context, as well as by Rwanda's development priorities as outlined in the Vision 2020 and Vision 2050, in the National Strategy for Transformation (NST1 2018 - 2024), the Strategic Plan for the Transformation of Agriculture (PSTA4 2018 - 2022), and the Rwanda National Gender Policy. These strategic documents outline interventions aimed at moving agriculture from a low production, subsistence-based to a market oriented, value-creating sector that improves rural incomes, addresses poverty and benefits women and men equally. Furthermore, the JP RWEE workplan is aligned to the Rwandan United Nations Development Assistance Plan 2018 - 2023 (UNDAF2).<sup>3</sup> It also takes into account lessons learned and recommendations from previous implementation phases.

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<sup>1</sup> National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR): National Accounts 2017

<sup>2</sup> National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR): Integrated Household Living Conditions Survey 2013/2014, Thematic Report on Economic Activity.

<sup>3</sup> Draft UNDAF 2 (2018 - 2023)

JP-RWEE Result Areas aligned to National Priorities and UNDP 2	NST 1: Economic Transformation Pillar	Related UNDP Economic Transformation Pillar
<p><b>Outcome 1: Rural women have improved food and nutrition security</b></p> <p><b>Interventions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Support cooperatives with Small scale irrigation (Drip irrigation)</li> <li>✓ Scale up the water harvesting Technology (tanks) to more beneficiaries</li> <li>✓ Capacity Building in climate smart agriculture techniques through technical support in greenhouse management and maintenance</li> <li>✓ Train Group members in Agro forestry techniques/Seeds and Plants nurseries</li> <li>✓ Distribute Fruit trees for food security and environmental management</li> </ul>	<p><b>Priority Area 6: Modernize and increase productivity of Agriculture and livestock</b></p> <p><b>Interventions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Strengthen the commercialization of crop and animal resource value chains,</li> <li>✓ Work with the private sector to increase the surface of consolidated and irrigated land and promote agricultural mechanization.</li> <li>✓ Promote new models of irrigation scheme management,</li> <li>✓ Enhance farmers' access to improved seeds, from 52% (2016) on consolidated sites to 75% by 2024</li> <li>✓ Increase the average productivity of key crops in tons per hectare between 2017 and 2024:</li> <li>✓ Work with the private sector to build post-harvest handling and storage facilities across the country and to add value to agricultural produce (processing).</li> <li>✓ Put in place mechanisms to increase access to finance for farmers.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcome 2: By 2023 Rwandan institutions and communities are more equitably, productively and sustainably managing natural resources and addressing climate change.</b></p> <p><b>Interventions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Agriculture:</b> UN will support efforts to increase agricultural production and productivity particularly for women and youth farmers.</li> <li>✓ Engage the private sector in the development and adoption of climate resilient agricultural technologies. Specifically, provision of agricultural inputs and innovative technologies including resilient breeds and crop varieties to farming households. Further, the UN will build capacities of both the population along the agricultural production value chain</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Outcome 1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Train Group members in Agro forestry techniques/</li> <li>✓ Distribute Fruit trees for food security and environmental management</li> </ul>	<p><b>Priority Area 7: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Environment interventions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Ensure the area covered by forest will reach at 30% from 29.6% in 2017</li> <li>✓ Halve the number of households depending on firewood as a source of energy for cooking from 83.3% (2014) to 42% by 2024,</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcome 2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ UN agencies will provide technical assistance to national institutions for: the development of strengthened regulatory frameworks</li> <li>✓ Technical and coordination capacity for gender sensitive and equitable management and mainstreaming of environment, natural resources and climate change, while promoting green growth</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outcome 2: Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Facilitate beneficiaries' access to finance</li> <li>✓ Training of Trainers (ToT) on Labour Saving Technologies (LSTECS)</li> <li>✓ Facilitate the construction of model Labour Saving Technologies</li> </ul>	<p><b>Priority Area 5: Increase domestic savings and position Rwanda as a hub for financial services to promote investments</b></p> <p><b>Key strategic interventions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Bring financial services closer to people (Financial inclusion) by increasing the percentage of adult Rwandans financially included at 100% by 2024 (from 89% in 2017)</li> </ul> <p>Gender and Women empowerment is a cross cutting issue in all sectors of the National Strategy for Transformation (NST1), sector strategies and District Development Strategies (DDS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ UN agencies will provide technical assistance to national institutions for: the development of strengthened regulatory frameworks</li> <li>✓ Technical and coordination capacity for gender sensitive and equitable management and mainstreaming of environment, natural resources and climate change, while promoting green growth</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Organize panel discussions to sensitize</li> </ul>		<p><b>Outcome 5: By 2023, people in Rwanda benefit from enhanced gender equality, justice, human rights, peace and security.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:</b> UN will provide</li> </ul>

## 2. Project area and target groups

With the additional funding, JP RWEE will continue to target the most vulnerable 1,744 individuals while progressively graduating the existing beneficiaries with potential to sustain their livelihoods. In terms of district focus, the joint programme will target the existing three districts of Kirehe, Ngoma and Nyaruguru and will also continue to build capacity at community and institutional levels.

As result of recent monitoring field visits, some existing beneficiaries were found to be ready to be progressively graduated out of the programme, while the most vulnerable 1,144 (921 women and 223 men) beneficiaries out of 1,260 supported in 2017 will continue to be supported under the JP RWEE. With the new 2018-2019 resource allocation, Rwanda proposes to add 600 (420 women and 180 men) new beneficiaries that are meeting the criteria of high vulnerability, notably those in UBUDEHE category 1 and 2 in Ngoma, Kirehe and Nyaruguru districts who already in informal small groups.

The existing beneficiaries will benefit from follow up activities needed to achieve sustainable and diversified income sources and employment creation, such activities include; agriculture processing, entrepreneurship and access to finance and markets. The new beneficiaries will benefit from capacity building activities such as GALS, post harvest handling, and water harvesting among others. Where materials and equipment such as farm inputs, seedlings, tools, water harvesting materials, post harvest handling materials and labour saving technologies have to be distributed, an assessment will be made in consultation with local authorities at village, cell and sector level to ascertain those most in need, in any case new beneficiaries shall be facilitated more than the existing ones to improve their current vulnerable state. Gender equality and women empowerment approaches shall be applied throughout the phase.

The proposed 2018-2019 work plan will build on the lessons and achievements of the current period by working towards sustainability of achievements, and putting more efforts in closing the existing gaps for example lack of data, women's access to land, financial inclusion and climate-smart planning among others.

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3. Description of activities by component		
Activity	Description	Justification/Rationale
<b>Outcome 1 Rural women have improved food and nutrition security</b> <b>Output 1.1 Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security</b>		
Organize Training of Trainers (ToT) on Labour Saving Technologies (LSTECs)	Train 1200 (800 women and 400 men) beneficiaries on construction, utilization and maintenance of Labour Saving Technologies such as Energy Saving Stoves/furnaces	The training will lead to increased number of skilled technicians in the community and hence jobs creation among the beneficiaries
Facilitate the construction of model Labour Saving Technologies and sensitize beneficiaries to construct energy saving stoves/furnaces	120 beneficiaries (80 women and 40 men) supported to construct model Labour Saving Technologies (LSTECs) and sensitize the rest of program 1.624 members (1241 women and 383 men) to construct energy saving stoves/furnaces	The availability of energy saving furnaces/stoves will help address the problem of scarce firewood and collection energy since deforestation is against GoR environmental policy. The LSTECs shall save time and distance to collect firewood for rural women, which allows time to be used for other developmental activities including agriculture production. LSTECs are also useful in terms of health as they eliminate firewood smoke that can pollute the environment and affect human beings.
Scale up the water harvesting Technology (tanks) to more beneficiaries	Distribution of rain water harvesting tanks to 550 house holds (400 female headed HH and 150 male headed HH)	This activity facilitates collection of rain water to be used for domestic use, and sustainable watering of crops and other agricultural needs. As a main activity for women and children, water harvesting saves time and distance for fetching water (currently estimated at 3 to 4 hours a day)
Support cooperatives with Small-scale irrigation (Drip irrigation)	Distribute drip irrigation schemes to 5 cooperatives (750 women and 250 men)	To cope with climate change, and as part of the JP RWEE Climate Smart Agriculture plans, this activity is also in line with the GoR policy to use small scale irrigation techniques; this will increase production and improve food security as production will continue even during the dry seasons. The technology will also reduce the women' work burden as irrigation will replace the manual watering of crops that women currently use
Train Group members in Agro forestry	120 beneficiaries (100 women and 20	At the request of the beneficiaries and the local authorities, this

<p>and mobilize women to build their confidence and take up local leadership roles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Scale up Gender Action Learning System (GALS) to new Champions and other JP-RWEE participants</li> </ul>		<p>technical assistance to the national gender machinery, state and non-state institutions and the media to advance gender equality, women's economic empowerment, political participation and decision making at national and local levels for both elective and non-elective position</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Violence prevention and response:</b> The UN intends to contribute towards the prevention and reduction in violence against children, sexual and gender based violence.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outcome 4: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Support MINAGRI in the revision of the current outdated Agriculture Gender Strategy to align with PSTA4</li> <li>✓ Support MINAGRI in the roll-out of the phase of the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI)</li> <li>✓ Conduct a study on gender analysis of the bean value chain</li> <li>✓ Conduct a study on women's participation in value chain finance</li> </ul>	<p><b>Transformational Governance Pillar:</b> <b>Priority area 1: Reinforce Rwandan culture and values as a foundation for peace and unity:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Strengthen and promote gender equality and ensure equal opportunities for all Rwandans whilst fostering the culture of solidarity with vulnerable groups</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcome 6: By 2023, people in Rwanda participate more actively in democratic and development processes and benefit from transparent and accountable public and private sector institutions that develop evidence based policies and deliver quality services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Data Development:</b> UN will work on data for development initiatives with government institutions and civil society organizations at the national and sub-national levels.</li> <li>✓ Technical and financial capacities to generate, disseminate and use quality disaggregated data e.g. Gender statistical reports</li> </ul>

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