

Case Study # 1: Country-Ownership

Rwanda's Investment Plan leads the way

In December 2009, the Government of Rwanda hosted a meeting to discuss its investment plan for food security, setting the stage for other countries.

The Government of Rwanda and a broad group of stakeholders representing donor countries, the private sector, civil society, and multilateral institutions gathered in Kigali in December 2009 for a high-level meeting and technical review of the country's investment plan for food security. The Rwanda Investment Plan was the first to be reviewed 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 AU/NePAD endorsed the Investment Plan and by the end of the meeting, donors were pledging their support and organizing to accelerate its implementation.

Dr. Agnes Kalibata, Rwanda's Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, was a key driver of the technical review and high-level meeting and plays a critical role in the success of



agricultural development in Rwanda – in recent years, agricultural growth has reached six percent per year. Dr. Kalibata received her doctoral degree from the University of Massachusetts,

Amherst, in 2005, and then returned to Africa to work for the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Uganda and the World Bank in Rwanda. As Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Dr. Kalibata oversees a growing budget devoted to agriculture, a trend consistent with Rwanda's CAADP commitments. Dr. Kalibata also plays a critical role in implementing and coordinating development partner support for the Rwanda Investment Plan.

In addition to participating in the December meetings, the U.S. is actively engaged in Rwanda's donor coordination efforts and is aligning its assistance with the Rwanda Investment Plan. For instance, the U.S. is exploring ways to collaborate with the U.K.'s Department for International Development on an access to finance program that supports the "Promotion of Commodity Chains and Agribusiness Development" component of the Investment Plan, with a special focus on women and the very poor. To leverage the benefits of multilateral institutions, the U.S. is working with the World Bank and other donors on a land husbandry, water harvesting, and hillside irrigation project that comprises the largest program of the Investment Plan, "Intensification and Development of Sustainable Production Systems."

Through Feed the Future, the U.S. is expanding its commitment to align its investments with partner country priorities that are based on robust consultative processes and evidence-based programming. Other countries are building upon Rwanda's success and organizing meetings around their investment plans. The U.S. will participate in meetings to be held in Bangladesh in late May 2010 and in West Africa in mid-June 2010.

"The challenge is huge, but it gives me an opportunity to contribute and give back to my society."

Dr. Agnes Kalibata

"Africans, on whose shoulders the responsibility of transforming the agriculture rightly falls, have devised a powerful home-grown initiative to address this challenge, the CAADP... We have a global consensus in the critical need to modernise Africa's agriculture so that it fulfills the historical objectives of providing food security and greater prosperity."

President Paul Kagame