

TOP AFRICA NEWS MEDIA

We digest News to tell the truth

No 1

April, 2025

Tel: +250787105131

E-mail: info@topafricanews.com

Kigali-Rwanda



TREPA project empowers Eastern Rwanda's beekeepers with modern tools and training



Rwanda's Capital Market Strengthens Commitment to Green Finance



11 Schools in Rwanda to Receive the Prestigious Green Flag Award for Environmental Excellence



EU Cofunded Project "SUSTAIN-IT" to Advance Environmental Education Through Digital Tools in Rwanda, Zimbabwe, and Namibia

TREPA project empowers Eastern Rwanda's beekeepers with modern tools and training

The **Transforming Eastern Province** through Adaptation (TREPA) project in the Eastern Province of Rwanda, through the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF), has equipped local beekeepers with equipment to help them foster biodiversity conservation, promote financial resources, and enhance resilience.

The equipment distributed among organised cooperatives includes modern beehives, beekeepers' clothing, automatic hand dryers, and fire extinguishers. This follows an assessment that showed that beekeepers in the Eastern Province still face some challenges related to equipment within the honey value chain and a lack of knowledge, leading them to continue practising traditional beekeeping methods. As a result, the yield remains low and fails to meet quality standards, according to Egide Gwaneza, the socio-economist at CIFOR-ICRAF.

In 2021, the Government of Rwanda and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) secured a funding of USD33.8 million from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and \$15.8 million as co-finance from Implementing Partners to implement the project entitled "Transforming Eastern Province through Adaptation," commonly known as the TREPA project.

IUCN, through the Project Management Unit (PMU), jointly executes the implementation of the six-year investment in collaboration with the Government of Rwanda through Rwanda Forestry Authority (RFA), Enabel, CIFOR-ICRAF, Cordaid, and World Vision.

Josephine Bagiraneza, President of the Akagera Beekeeping Union, said: "ICRAF discovered that, in truth, we had no formal knowledge of beekeeping; they began by offering us training on how to care for bees and taught us how to practise modern beekeeping, as we previously used traditional beehives. We lacked many tools, but we are grateful to the TREPA project for providing equipment to help us meet quality standards."

Clementine Nyirambarubukeye, a beekeeper from Rwamagana District, said: "We have received modern beehives, which will help us harvest and process honey that meets quality standards. We would harvest at night using smoke in the past, and often the bees would bite us. Now, we've seen the difference."

Ernest Ndikubwimana, a beekeeper in Gishari, also stated that the equipment they received will allow them to engage in beekeeping not just to produce honey for home consumption or for making local brews, as was done in the past, but to access markets and earn an income that can improve their livelihoods.



Beekeeping and insect farming have the potential to provide income for rural households, particularly for small-holder women farmers.

Jane Mutune, Co-lead value chain development at CIFOR-ICRAF, said beekeeping is essential for improving income and livelihoods and providing a healthy ecosystem.

"When you see a bee, you can be sure that the ecosystem is healthy, but when you don't see a bee, it is a sign of a polluted and degraded environment", she said.

Dietmar Stoian, lead value chain development at CIFOR-ICRAF, said: "We want to ensure these cooperatives are equipped with tools and equipment to meet food safety standards."

The Executive Secretary of Gatsibo Sector, Geoffrey Mutabazi, urged the beekeepers who received equipment to take good care of it and afford their own tools without relying on aid in the coming years.

Thanks to effective practices that result in sufficient honey production, as there is already a market for it, his counterpart from Gishari Sector, Emmanuel Ntwari, praised the cooperatives involving young people in beekeeping, noting that they will help ensure continuity of the activity when older members can no longer work as actively.

In addition to receiving equipment, beekeepers are also trained to plant nectar-producing trees for bees and make candles, soap, cosmetic oils, beeswax products, and other items that can help them generate income.

Beekeeping and insect farming have the potential to provide income for rural households, particularly for small-holder women farmers.

Rwanda's annual honey production reached 7,000 tonnes as of August 2024, indicating progress, but it still fell short of the 8,611-tonne target set earlier under the fourth Strategic Plan for Agriculture Transformation (PSTA4). Under PSTA4, the country targeted increasing honey production from 5,535 tonnes in 2017 to 8,611 by June 30, 2024.

According to the Rwanda Agriculture and Development Board (RAB), achieving the target was challenging due to habitat loss caused by urbanisation and monoculture, which limit diverse foraging areas for bees.

The TREPA project would play a remarkable role in restoring bee habitats. Under PSTA5, the goal is to increase honey production to 10,000 tonnes by addressing the challenges that have hindered progress.

The TREPA project aims to shift the eastern province from degraded to resilient landscapes and from fragile to sustainable livelihoods. The project has already started showing success stories, targeting to restore 60,00 ha of degraded land for increased resilience across all seven districts, namely Bugesera, Gatsibo, Kayanza, Kirehe, Ngoma, Nyagatare, and Rwamagana.

Rwanda's Capital Market Strengthens Commitment to Green Finance



Rwanda is strengthening its role in sustainable finance, as demonstrated during the recent Green Public Financial Management (PFM) Seminar held in Kigali. The event brought together policymakers, financial experts, and key stakeholders to examine the integration of climate and environmental considerations into public financial management frameworks.

Speaking at the seminar, Thapelo Tsheole, Chief Executive Officer of the Capital Market Authority, stressed the country's growing achievements in green finance. "Rwanda's commitment to green finance is evident through its Sustainable Finance Roadmap, which provides strategic direction for scaling up sustainable investments while ensuring the resilience of the financial system," he said.

A significant milestone in Rwanda's financial sector has been the introduction of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Reporting Guidelines for the Rwanda Stock Exchange (RSE). "These guidelines align Rwanda's financial markets with international sustainability standards, enhancing transparency, accountability, and responsible investing," Tsheole noted. He added that the move has significantly boosted investor confidence and improved market efficiency through adherence to global best practices.

Among other notable developments is the launch of Green, Social, and Sustainability (GSS+) Bonds, structured in line with standards set by the International Capital Market Association (ICMA) and the Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI). "The successful issuance of these bonds affirms Rwanda's commitment to creating credible and attractive green investment opportunities, ensuring our financial markets remain globally competitive," said Tsheole.

In addition to GSS+ Bonds, the Rwanda Development Bank (BRD) has issued two Sustainability-Linked Bonds, while Prime Energy Plc launched a Green Bond to finance environmentally sustainable projects. "These issuances highlight our dedication to leveraging capital markets to support climate-resilient development while enhancing investor confidence," Tsheole added.

Rwanda's robust green finance agenda is designed to attract private sector investment into climate-related initiatives, deepen capital market development, and align national policies with international frameworks such as the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These efforts also contribute to fostering responsible investing and strengthening the overall credibility of Rwanda's financial sector.

With progressive policies and ongoing innovation in green finance, Rwanda is well on its way to becoming a continental leader in sustainable financial development.

No 1

April, 2025

Tel: +250787105131

E-mail: info@topafricanews.com

Kigali-Rwanda



Model Villages Shield Communities from Climate Chaos in Kirehe and Gakenke



Rwanda's Development Bank Joins Green Climate Fund as New Accredited Entity



How One Rwandan Startup Is Using Tech to Transform Agriculture



Governor Mugabowagahunde Urges Citizens to Take Advantage of Government Agricultural Insurance Subsidy

11 Schools in Rwanda to Receive the Prestigious Green Flag Award for Environmental Excellence

Kigali, Rwanda – 27th March 2025 – 11 schools in Rwanda were officially awarded the prestigious Green Flag for their commitment to environmental education, sustainability, and climate resilience under the Eco-Schools Programme. Organized by the Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS), the National Operator of the Programme in Rwanda, the awarding ceremony marked a major milestone in mainstreaming Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in Rwanda's schools.

Implemented in 101 countries, the Eco-Schools Programme was introduced in Rwanda in 2020 by ARCOS in partnership with the Rwanda Basic Education Board (REB), Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA), the Rwanda National Commission for UNESCO, local authorities, and communities.

The programme translates the principles of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) into practice by infusing environmental education, action-based learning, and student-centred teaching methods into primary and secondary education.

Eco-Schools in Rwanda apply **Nature-Based Solutions** through **Green Learning Zones** to improve school feeding programs, biodiversity conservation, and climate-smart agriculture. These initiatives equip students with critical thinking, problem-solving, and leadership skills, ensuring that education translates into action.

"This Green Flag Award is a testament to the power of environmental education in shaping future generations of sustainability champions. Seeing these 11 schools achieve this milestone proves that when young people are given the right tools and knowledge, they become powerful agents of change," said Dr. Sam Kanyamibwa, Founder and CEO of ARCOS.



Eco-Schools in Rwanda apply Nature-Based Solutions through Green Learning Zones to improve school feeding programs, biodiversity conservation, and climate-smart agriculture.

The Rwanda Basic Education Board (REB) also applauded the schools for their dedication to sustainability. Ngoga Fixer Eugene, Director of School Leadership and Career Guidance at REB, stated: "The integration of environmental education into our schools is a critical step in building a sustainable future for Rwanda. The Eco-Schools Programme complements our national efforts to enhance the quality of education while promoting climate resilience and sustainable development. These schools are leading the way in demonstrating how education can empower young people to become environmental stewards and active citizens."

ARCOS is implementing the Eco-Schools Programme in both Rwanda and Uganda, fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing in environmental education. Schools earning Green Flag accreditation successfully follow the seven-step process,

including forming an **Eco-Committee**, conducting an **environmental review**, developing an **action plan**, integrating sustainability into the **curriculum**, engaging the **community**, monitoring **progress**, and establishing an **Eco-Code**. By meeting these criteria, they demonstrate excellence in sustainability and inspire others to act. **Évariste Kayijamahe, Head Teacher at Groupe Scolaire Ntarama**, expressed pride, stating, *"This Green Flag is not just an award—it's a symbol of our commitment to a greener, healthier future. Our students have embraced sustainability, and we are proud to be part of this global movement."*



Stakeholders are engaging in sessions designed to explore the integration of environmental education into vocational training.

"Today, we are here to learn about the education system in Rwanda and to focus on environmental education and the application of digital tools in raising awareness," said Ms. Sheila Larrabaster, Project Manager from Politeknika Txorierrri. "The goal of our project is to build the capacity of TVET educators in utilizing these digital tools effectively."

Participants have also engaged in sessions with teachers and students from TVET Gatenga, emphasizing the importance of environmental awareness and sustainability. These interactions fostered a collaborative spirit, allowing for the exchange of ideas and best practices within the context of vocational training.

Central to the initiative is the introduction of Internet of Things (IoT) kits designed for educational purposes. These do-it-yourself kits will enable educators and students to connect various sensors to measure environmental factors such as CO2 levels, temperature, humidity, and water quality. The data gathered from these activities will play a crucial role in enhancing environmental awareness among students.

The project plans to not only supply the necessary tools but also provide training for teachers, enabling them to effectively incorporate these tools into their classrooms. A competition is also planned, encouraging students to apply their knowledge and skills in programming the IoT boards to monitor environmental conditions.

Model Villages Shield Communities from Climate Chaos in Kirehe and Gakenke



By Justin Kayiranga

Residents of Gakenke and Kirehe are experiencing a significant turnaround thanks to the LDCF 3 project by the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA), which has improved their lives by facilitating their relocation from high-risk zones to climate-resilient settlements.

For many of the beneficiaries, life before the intervention was marked by fear and loss. Before moving to the Muzo IDP model village in Gakenke district, Twizerimana Florida lived in constant fear of seasonal floods. "When it rained, especially in the evening, we felt unsafe," she recalls. "I would run from my home, fearing that the floods would sweep us away." Her experience is echoed by Jean Baptiste Gahamanyi, who estimates that over 40 residents lost their lives in floods and landslides before the project began. "Now, even when it rains, we sleep soundly," he states.

The impact of LDCF3 extends far beyond Gakenke. In Kirehe district, residents of the Nyabigega IDP model village share similar stories of renewal and resilience. Here, the project has focused on rehabilitating homes and providing critical resources such as livestock and water tanks.

Speaking about their lives before the renovation of their houses, Mukandutiye Vestine revealed that "we were living a very difficult life, our houses had no doors, then this project came and renovated our houses, they even gave us livestock and water tanks, now our lives are better."

"We are now thinking about our future development, unlike before the project renovated these houses, when we were worried that our houses might collapse on us because they were not in good condition." Added Mbarushimana Dieudonne.

Beyond constructing homes, the LDCF3 project has stimulated the local economy through job creation and skills training. According to Charles Sindayigaya, the project's national coordinator, over 56,000 green jobs have been created so far across Gakenke and Kirehe.

"In order to enhance long-term self-reliance, there are plans to establish animal shelters, a local market and a Crafts Production Center (locally known as Agakiriro) all to assist residents especially youth engage in self-development activities."

Both Mukandayisenga Vestine, the mayor of Gakenke district and Bruno Rangira, the mayor of Kirehe district hail project's contribution to improving the welfare of rural communities and urged residents to take ownership of the developments and ensure their sustainability beyond the project's duration.

Defined as Ecosystem/Landscape Approach to Climate Proof the Rural Settlement Programme of Rwanda, LDCF3 Project is a six-year initiative aimed to putting Rwanda's Rural Settlement on a climate-resilient pathway.

It is implemented by the government of Rwanda through the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) and stakeholders with support of the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

EU Cofunded Project "SUSTAIN-IT" to Advance Environmental Education Through Digital Tools in Rwanda, Zimbabwe, and Namibia



Kigali, Rwanda – The first meeting of stakeholders for the **"SUSTAIN-IT" project**, aimed at enhancing technical vocational education and environmental awareness, has commenced in Kigali. This important gathering, running from March 17 to 21, 2025, at the Don Bosco Hospitality Centre, marks the initial collaborative effort to discuss the

project's objectives and strategies among key participants. Funded by the Erasmus+ program of the European Union, the "SUSTAIN-IT" initiative seeks to equip TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) educators with innovative digital tools for environmental monitoring,



From Survival to Sustainability: Refugees in Nyabiheke Reap the Benefits of Farming



Elevate your Brand with us

- Newsletters Design
- Media management
- Report writing
- Advocacy services
- Videography and Photography



Elevate your Brand with us

- Publication of success stories
- Media coverage
- PR publication
- Social media management
- Web design and content development



Rwanda's Development Bank Joins Green Climate Fund as New Accredited Entity



Songdo, Incheon – February 17, 2025 – In a significant move towards strengthening climate finance efforts, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) has announced the approval of several new Accredited Entities during its Forty-first Board meeting held in Songdo, Incheon, Republic of Korea.

Among the newly accredited entities is the Development Bank of Rwanda (BRD), which will now play a pivotal role in funding and implementing climate-related projects across the region.

The GCF, established to support the efforts of developing countries to respond to the challenge of climate change, has embraced a diverse range of Accredited Entities that include both private and public sector organizations.

The latest approvals also include ACTED, Arm Swiss Bank, the Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank (ESATDB), the ECOWAS Bank for Investment, and the Fonds d'Intervention pour l'Environnement (FIE).

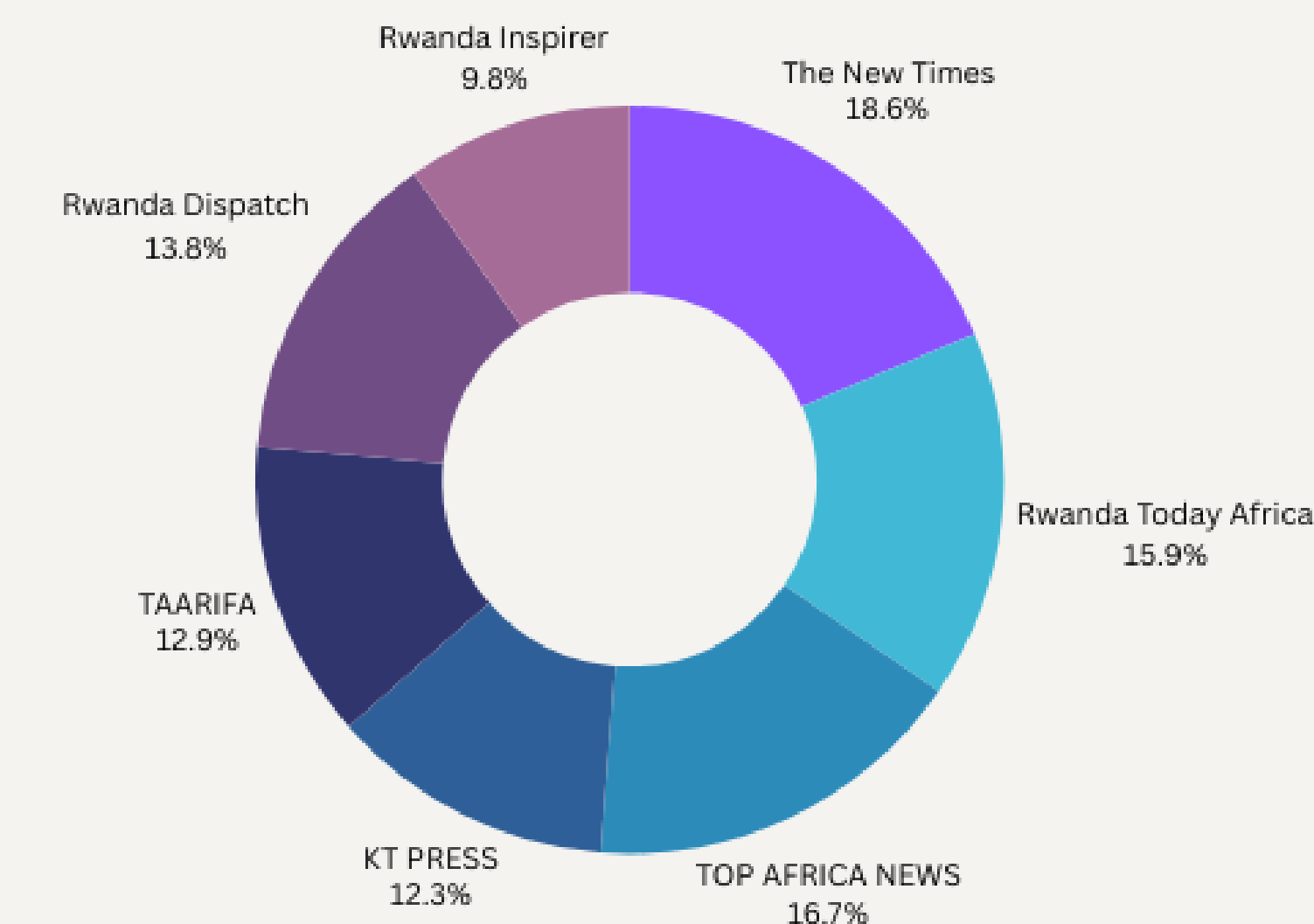
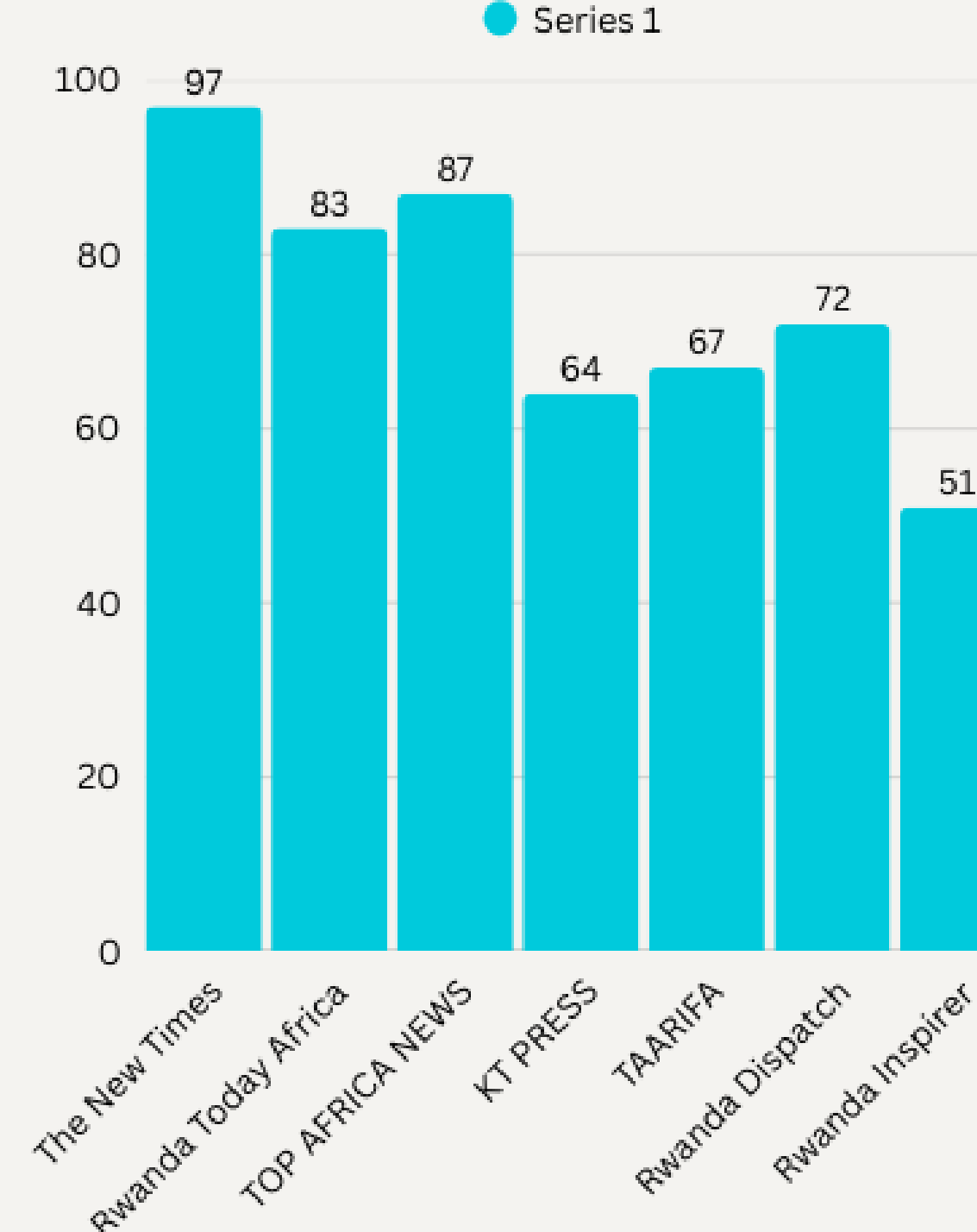
Accredited Entities are essential partners for the GCF, tasked with transforming innovative ideas into actionable projects that align with the investment framework and priorities of developing nations. They collaborate closely with governments to develop funding proposals that are then submitted for GCF Board approval.

The inclusion of BRD in this prestigious group reflects Rwanda's commitment to climate resilience and sustainable development. As an Accredited Entity, BRD will not only facilitate access to GCF resources but also oversee the management and monitoring of various climate initiatives aimed at mitigating the impacts of climate change.

The GCF's decision to approve these entities comes at a crucial time when global attention is focused on addressing climate change challenges. With countries increasingly looking for collaborative solutions, the role of accredited entities becomes vital in ensuring effective project implementation and resource allocation.

TOP ENGLISH NEWS WEBSITE WITH BEST SEO IN RWANDA

The following is the latest SEO data for the most populous News websites based on synchronization of the results of December, 6th 2024



© Africa News Digest Ltd



The Best Media and Marketing Services Provider!

The Year 2025 is here! Struggling to make waves in the digital world? Look no further! Our Media & Marketing Services are here to skyrocket your brand's online presence and engagement.



Social & Website Management



Media Coverages



Publication Services



Strategic Marketing

Call To Find Us
0787105131

TOP AFRICA NEWS MEDIA



From Survival to Sustainability: Refugees in Nyabiheke Reap the Benefits of Farming



Alice, a Congolese refugee, harvesting maize in Nyabicwamba marshland

As the sun rises over Nyabicwamba marshland near Nyabiheke Refugee Camp in eastern Rwanda, Alice steps forward with her machete in the middle of her plot of maize. She begins cutting through stalk after stalk, working with energy to ensure she collects enough maize before the sun gets too hot.

Alice, a Congolese refugee, is not alone – her fellow KODIGA cooperative members, are scattered across the marshland, doing the same. They include women and men, Rwandans and refugees alike, working alongside each other. After months of hard work, the moment has arrived: the first day of the first maize harvest of the year.

"I expect to get around 200kg of maize," she estimates. "We harvest and sell it at the market, while also keeping some for home consumption. The money we earn helps us buy other essentials like clothes and small livestock."

For Alice, farming is more than just growing food – it's a new beginning: tilling the land has given her dignity, a livelihood, an occupation, and hope for a better tomorrow.

Forced to flee her home country Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), she arrived in the refugee camp in 2012. For ten long years, there was little to do; no land to farm meant no way to earn a living. But in 2022, everything changed: Gatsibo District set aside marshland for agriculture to benefit refugees like Alice and her Rwandan neighbours alike. Together, they finally had a chance to put her hands in the soil. Alice shares a similar story with over 450 other refugees in Nyabiheke camp and their Rwandan neighbors who are now enjoying their harvest from the 23-hectare marshland.

Thanks to funding from the Danish International Development Agency, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), in collaboration with the Government of Rwanda and local non-governmental organization DUHAMIC-ADRI, has been supporting hundreds of refugee families in Nyabiheke and Kigeme camps

alongside Rwandans living near the camps to improve their livelihoods through this climate-smart and market-oriented agriculture project. Further, this farming project goes beyond just livelihoods – it also brings refugees and Rwandans together. Rwandan farmer Emmanuel Karimutumye says that working with refugees through the farming cooperative has brought them together:

"When they have weddings, they invite us and we support them, we visit each other often, and some even gift each other livestock; this really strengthens the bonds of friendship," Emmanuel points out. "Personally, I used to see those in the refugee camp as strangers, but now we see them as our brothers and sisters. I have many friends there, we share everything, visit each other, and get along well in everything."

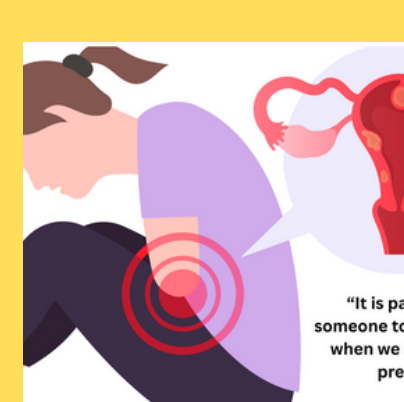
But despite the progress, challenges remain. While the farming initiative has transformed the lives of many refugee families and their Rwandan neighbours, the need far exceeds the available support. Bernard Munyaneza, a Congolese refugee farmer in Nyabicwamba marshland, believes that such livelihood programs should be expanded to benefit more refugees, especially as the cost of living continues to rise and humanitarian cash assistance decreases, making it harder for many to afford even the basics.



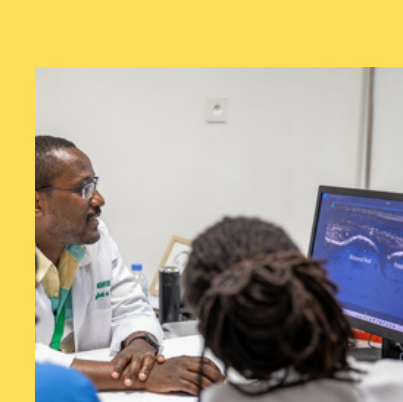
University Students Empowered to Seize Opportunities in Water Resource Management



Gisagara Intensifies Fight Against Malaria in Swamp-Adjacent Sectors



Shocking Statistics: Cervical Cancer Claims 70% of Cases in Africa, Experts Call for Action



Bridging the Care Gap: Dr. Janvier Murayire Leads Initiative to Enhance Rheumatology Services in Rwanda

Governor Mugabowagahunde Urges Citizens to Take Advantage of Government Agricultural Insurance Subsidy



The Governor of the Northern Province, Maurice Mugabowagahunde, has encouraged farmers and livestock keepers to embrace crop and livestock insurance, particularly by making the most of the government's subsidy scheme designed to support them in times of loss.

The National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS) was launched in 2019 under the slogan “Tekana Urishingiwe Muhinzi Mworozu”. It is implemented by RAB-SPIU in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture (MINAGRI).

By partnering with private insurance companies in Rwanda, NAIS is developing financially sustainable insurance products supported by a 40% government subsidy from MINAGRI, aimed at managing risks and mitigating losses in agriculture and livestock. The crops covered by the insurance include rice, maize, potatoes, pepper, beans, soya, French beans, and cassava. Livestock covered includes cattle, pigs, poultry, and fish.

Governor Mugabowagahunde noted that, at first, citizens did not fully grasp the benefits of insuring their crops and animals. However, the province has since adopted a thorough awareness campaign, reaching all sectors with the help of agricultural promoters, and holding community meetings to explain the advantages of insurance, especially in light of the available government subsidy.

He stated, “What helps us most is the 40% insurance cost subsidy – that’s a great opportunity for them. Another key factor is giving real-life examples from areas affected by heavy rainfall where wetlands were flooded. When they see fellow farmers being compensated, it motivates them to join the scheme. In many places, lightning strikes frequently kill livestock. When farmers are compensated, it inspires others to join as well.”

He urged farmers to take full advantage of the subsidy provided by the government, as it reduces their burden in case of losses.

“What we ask of our citizens is to seize this opportunity, because if the government is covering 40% of the insurance cost, then in the event of adverse weather or accidents, at least they are protected from significant financial loss,” he said.

In the 2024 Season B, the Northern Province had set a target to insure 58,628 animals but managed to insure 45,663, which included 7,977 cows, 48,470 chickens, and 2,281 pigs – achieving 77.9% of the target. The crop insurance target was 1,188 hectares, but the province insured 1,434 hectares of maize, rice, beans, and potatoes – reaching 128% of the target.

This crop and livestock insurance programme has helped farmers to secure their livelihoods, minimise risks, and access financial support during times of loss.

Clarisse Manishimwe, a poultry farmer in Muhoza Sector, Musanze District, said the government subsidy motivated her to purchase insurance without hesitation.

“Previously, we used to lose chickens and suffer major losses, sometimes discouraging us from continuing. But when the government offered a 40% subsidy, it was a great relief and helped protect us from such losses,” she said. Claude Kamugundu, a dairy farmer in Musanze District with ten years of experience, currently insures his six milking cows. He expressed satisfaction with the livestock insurance programme, noting that it offers compensation when losses occur.

“I once lost three cows, and the insurance companies compensated me promptly. Before I enrolled in the scheme, I had lost a cow and incurred a loss of nearly 800,000 Rwandan Francs,” he said.

Since the NAIS programme began, 161,445 crop farmers (84,576 men and 76,869 women) and 49,854 livestock keepers (36,930 men and 9,924 women) have enrolled in the “Tekana Urishingiwe Muhinzi Mworozu” scheme each year.

To date, a total of 6,448,769,162 Rwandan Francs has been paid out in compensation to insured farmers and livestock keepers — with crop farmers receiving 3,492,644,699 Frw and livestock keepers receiving 2,956,124,463 Frw. The government has so far contributed 5,088,470,624 Frw in subsidies to help farmers afford insurance.

By Kanamugire Emmanuel

Gisagara Intensifies Fight Against Malaria in Swamp-Adjacent Sectors



The administration of Gisagara District has stepped up its malaria prevention efforts, focusing particularly on sectors bordering swamps—areas that have been hardest hit by the disease.

Located in southern Rwanda, Gisagara remains one of the country's most malaria-affected districts. According to the Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC), the district ranked fourth nationwide in February 2025, with 6,145 recorded malaria cases.

Data from RBC reveals that three of Gisagara's sectors—Mamba, Gishubi, and Muganza—are among the 25 most affected nationwide. Mamba ranked 9th with 1,425 cases, followed closely by Gishubi in 10th place with 1,341, and Muganza in 12th with 1,220. Combined, these three sectors account for over half of all malaria cases reported across the district's 13 sectors.

To tackle the persistent threat, the district is doubling down on education and grassroots engagement.

“One of our strongest measures is to teach the public because prevention is better than cure,” said Denise DUSABE, Vice Mayor in charge of Social Affairs in Gisagara. She emphasized that raising awareness is key, particularly in six sectors located near swamps—natural breeding grounds for malaria-transmitting mosquitoes.

Collaborating with local agricultural cooperatives has been a strategic move, DUSABE explained. “We have many cooperatives involved in maize and rice farming. We collaborate with them to help educate the public,” she said, noting that the groups have also contributed to efforts to improve housing conditions, reducing indoor mosquito exposure.

The role of community health workers has also been instrumental in the fight against malaria. “Having 54% of patients treated by community health workers shows how close and accessible healthcare has become,”

she said, expressing gratitude to the Rwanda Biomedical Center for ensuring a steady supply of malaria medications to both health centers and community health workers.

As World Malaria Day approaches on April 25, DUSABE urged residents to stay vigilant. “We encourage everyone to participate in the commemoration and to continue supporting the campaign to eliminate malaria —by preventing mosquito breeding and seeking treatment promptly when symptoms arise.”

On the ground, many residents say the awareness campaigns have already made an impact.

“In the evening, we close the windows to keep mosquitoes out and ensure we sleep under treated mosquito nets,” said Delphine MAUKESHIMANA a resident of Nyabisagara Cell in Mukindo Sector.

Another resident, Solange BAGIRANEZA, added: “I avoid areas with bushes and stagnant water and always sleep under a mosquito net properly.”

Beyond awareness campaigns, the district has launched additional preventive actions. These include spraying insecticides in high-risk areas, leveraging the reach of community health workers, and distributing treated mosquito nets. A recent campaign led in partnership with the Rwanda Interfaith Council for Health (RICH) aims to distribute 58,640 mosquito nets throughout the district.

With more than 400,000 residents, Gisagara is now rallying communities behind its “End Malaria” campaign. Authorities are hopeful that with sustained effort and local engagement, the tide against malaria can be turned—starting from the grassroots.

By Mutangana Emmanuel



Cheers to what makes us real fans.

Raise Heineken® on match day.



ADVERTISING

Call: +250787105131

University Students Empowered to Seize Opportunities in Water Resource Management

University students were encouraged to take advantage of opportunities in water resource preservation and management as part of efforts to strengthen sustainable water practices. This was the focus of a knowledge-sharing event themed “Opportunities for Young Water Professionals,” held on March 20 during National Water Week celebrations.

Organized by the Rwanda Young Water Professional (RYWP) in collaboration with Water Partnership Rwanda (WPR) and the University of Rwanda Young Water Professionals (URYWP), the event served as a platform to equip students with insights into career pathways, capacity-building programs, and innovative solutions within the water sector.

Benigne Ishimwe Mugwaneza, Coordinator of RYWP, emphasized the importance of ambition and innovation among young professionals, urging them to take advantage of available opportunities in the water sector.

She said, “We work closely with university students because they are the future of water resource management. Our goal is to ensure they contribute meaningfully to solving the country’s water challenges.”

She added, “Let’s wake up. Opportunities are there, and the time is now. Especially for third- and fourth-year students, this is the moment to engage, learn, and start contributing.”

Mugwaneza encouraged students to adopt a holistic approach to water management. “When addressing flood management, don’t just think about controlling floods—think about the potential cultural and tourism benefits of water management solutions. Let’s be ambitious, work hard, and bring innovative ideas to the table,” she said.

She also acknowledged the advantages young professionals have today. “Our seniors started in an era where they lacked structured platforms. Now, we have the privilege of mentorship and networking. It’s up to us to utilize these resources and create a legacy for future generations,” she noted.

Davis Bugingo, Flood Management and Water Storage Development Division Manager at RWB, underscored the critical role young professionals play in addressing water-related challenges.

“As this week’s theme is ‘catchment preservation,’ it’s important to remember that mountains serve as natural water reservoirs. They are the origin of our water resources, feeding into swamps, rivers, and the soil,” he explained. “Preserving these catchments is fundamental to ensuring sustainable water management.”

Bugingo emphasized that university students,



particularly those in water-related fields, have the energy and intellectual resources to contribute significantly to the sector.

“Young Water Professionals play a big role in water resource management. They are students, researchers, and future practitioners who need to understand existing problems and develop solutions. Their research should focus on addressing real-world water issues,” he noted.

He encouraged students to engage actively in their communities. “We request students to start in their homes, in their schools, by identifying and solving local water challenges. They should leverage social media

and technology to share solutions and raise awareness,” he urged.

Bugingo also called on young entrepreneurs to explore business opportunities in the water sector. “Entrepreneurs, researchers, system modelers, planners, and economists—all have a place in water management. There are opportunities in sanitation, water purification, and infrastructure development. We need to think beyond engineering and embrace multidisciplinary approaches,” he stated.

By fostering a culture of collaboration between students, professionals, and institutions, Rwanda is positioning itself for a future where water resources are well-managed and preserved for generations to come.

Bridging the Care Gap: Dr. Janvier Murayire Leads Initiative to Enhance Rheumatology Services in Rwanda



Dr. Janvier Murayire, a prominent Rheumatologist and Internal Medicine Physician, serves as the Chair of Internal Medicine at the African Health Science University (AHSU) and heads the Department of Internal Medicine at King Faisal Hospital in Rwanda. In a groundbreaking collaboration with Pfizer’s Accord for a Healthier World, Dr. Murayire is on a mission to provide essential care to patients with rheumatic diseases in Rwanda, an initiative that holds the promise of expansion across the African continent.

The stark reality is that Africa is home to just 2,970 rheumatologists serving a staggering population of 1.2 billion people.

Until recently, Dr. Murayire was the only rheumatologist in Rwanda, a situation fueled by a lack of formal training programs, competing health priorities, and limited access to necessary treatments.

With critical support and resources from the Accord, which includes ongoing medical education, Dr. Murayire has spearheaded training initiatives for healthcare providers in both rural and urban settings. These efforts aim to enhance the diagnosis and treatment of

- rheumatic diseases—conditions characterized by joint inflammation and severe pain that significantly impact patients’ physical, mental, and emotional well-being, often disrupting their daily lives.

The results of this collaboration have been remarkable:

- Over 10 physician specialists have been trained and are now successfully running functional rheumatology units in their respective institutions nationwide.
- Approximately 2,500 patients have benefited from enhanced access to rheumatological care that was previously unavailable to them.
- Through the Accord, Pfizer is committed to providing its portfolio of medicines and vaccines on a not-for-profit basis to eligible countries, including those needed for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). However, for these medicines and vaccines to reach those in need, systemic challenges must be addressed—chief among them, the necessity for more trained healthcare professionals. This is why the Accord is collaborating with global health leaders like Dr. Murayire to advance health workforce education and development.

This initiative embodies hope for millions across Africa who currently lack access to rheumatology care

