



Research Into Use *sharing lessons to enable innovation in agriculture*

## **Summary: Relevance of RIU-Rwanda workplan vis-à-vis the national agricultural development policy framework.**

### **I. Overview of PSTA II**

The Strategic Plan for Agricultural Transformation in Rwanda<sup>1</sup> – Phase II (PSTA II) is a comprehensive document adopted by Cabinet in 2008 and that presents in four (4) Programmes the overall agricultural sector development strategy for the four year period 2009-2012. An investment Plan<sup>2</sup> was also produced by the Government of Rwanda. In a resource constrained scenario, the following areas are absolute priorities for the Government of Rwanda:

- *Achieving food and nutrition security for all Rwandans and halving poverty* by increasing the productivity per hectare of staple crops. This will require, strengthening efforts in land management especially terracing, dealing with drought issues through irrigation, and improved access to inputs; improved seeds, fertilizers and livestock.
- *Promotion and support to private sector initiatives* by supporting trade improving policies, value addition and support to public private partnerships.
- *Technology creation, adaptation and transfer* by investing in research and skills development to respond to both the needs of farmers and the private sector.

### **II. Relevance of RIU-Rwanda workplan to PSTA II**

We try to summarise in the following paragraphs the four Programme of PSTA II and show how RIU-Rwanda Programme will (or can) contribute to their implementation.

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<sup>1</sup> See in Table I detailed sub- Programme of PSTA II

<sup>2</sup> The Agriculture Sector Investment Plan(2009-2012) was presented to the development partners during the Rwanda (CAADP) Post-Compact High Level Stakeholder Meeting (Kigali 7-8 December 2009). There is still a funding gap of 38% compared to total funding requirements (848,116,054 USD). Development partners have supported the Strategic Plan and accepted to communicate their contributions by April 2010.

**PSTA II Programme 1. Physical Resources and Food Production: Intensification and development of sustainable production Systems:**

The objectives in this Programme are four-fold: (i) create needed soil and water management structures; (ii) demonstrate to farmers and villagers the benefits of soil fertility-enhancing technologies; (iii) increase ownership of livestock and improve and intensify animal husbandry practices: and (iv) improve cultivation practices and develop sustainable production systems.

*Through RIU-Rwanda support to both the Maize and Potato Platforms (and cassava as well), we are: i) contributing (and committed to) to address bottlenecks related to crop intensification; ii) strengthening both formal and informal seed systems as well as iii) creating an enabling environment for better use of fertilisers.*

**Programme 2. Producer Organisation and Knowledge Systems: Support to the professionalisation of the producers:** The objectives of second Programme are to: (i) strengthen the sector's social capital base; (ii) provide producers with the organizational support as entrepreneurs; and (iii) strengthen the entities in the sector charged with the development of productive technologies, applied knowledge and imparting this knowledge to farmers. This Programme covers capacity strengthening of farmers' organisation as well as improving service delivery that includes both extension and research for transforming agriculture.

*As RIU, we think we can contribute to this programme through: i) Fostering synergy and linkages between farmers' organisations and knowledge suppliers through active participation in Innovation Platforms; ii) promoting on farm participatory research-cum-extension approaches such as farmer field schools; iii) support to emergence and build capacity of networks/groups of farmers as trainers and facilitators; iv) enhance access to knowledge and sharing through effective communication; v) undertake a series of actions focused on enhancing demand for research outputs; vi) Provide training and capacity building support to farmers' organisations (platform members) in relevant areas not adequately covered by other stakeholders (gap-filling) .*

**Programme 3. Promotion of commodity chains and agribusiness Development.**

The overall objective of Programme 3 is to create, through institutional reforms, investments and incentives, an environment which is favourable for farmers and agro-entrepreneurs to develop high value products, including processed products, and to access the markets which will justify the investments in those areas.

*Our support to both Maize and Potato Platforms (and Cassava as well) is in line with the sub-programme related to production and value addition for domestic staple products: From an overall view of selected commodity chains, the approach is to identify the critical points where interventions could make a decisive improvement in productivity*

*and competitiveness; and combine farmer training, technical assistance and investments to maximize the synergies for each commodity chain.*

*Another key challenge to address is limited access to adequate financial services: There are still opportunities to innovate in that area by: i) Strengthening the demand side for rural financial services through activities to improve financial literacy in rural areas and the capacity of local financial intermediaries; ii) Pilot risk mitigation products such as a micro-insurance programme, iii) Develop value chain finance with particular attention to the “warrantage system” that enables farmers to obtain financing based on their grain stored in approved facilities.*

#### **Programme 4. Institutional development**

The overall objective of this Programme is to strengthen the institutional framework through which the public sector supports agricultural development.

*Our priority in that regard is to strength NIC and its policy dialogue function so that it can contribute to wider use of innovations and improve service delivery in the agricultural sector.*

*We also envisage undertaking a full set of activities for strengthening platform technical/organisational capacity that encompasses all relevant topics to be identified through the need assessment exercise.*

*Our contribution will also target the development of a framework for learning and lessons sharing both at national level (through NIC) and at local level through active participation of platforms in District Joint Action Forum.*



**TABLE 1: PSTA II Programmes and Sub-programmes.**

Programmes	Sub-programmes
<b>Programme 1. Intensification and development of sustainable production Systems</b>	
	SP 1.1 Sustainable management of natural resources and water and soil conservation
	SP 1.2 Integrated development and intensification of crops and livestock
	SP 1.2.1 Crop diversification and intensification
	SP 1.2.2 Livestock development
	SP 1.3 Marshland development
	SP 1.4 Irrigation development
	SP 1.5 Supply and use of agricultural inputs
	SP1.5.1 Fertiliser and agrochemical supply and use
	SP1.5.2 Certified seeds and other inputs
SP 1.6 Food security and vulnerability management	

<b>Programme 2. Support to the professionalisation of the producers</b>			
		SP 2.1 Promotion of farmer organisations and capacity building for Producers	
		SP 2.2 Restructuring proximity services for producers  SP 2.3 Research for transforming agriculture	
<b>Programme 3. Promotion of commodity chains and agribusiness Development</b>			
		SP 3.1 Creating a conducive environment for business and entrepreneurship development and market access	
		SP 3.2 Promotion and development of traditional exports	SP3.2.1 Coffee
			SP3.2.1 Tea
			SP3.2.1 Pyrethrum
		SP 3.3 Development of non-traditional high-value export products	
	SP 3.4 Production and value addition for domestic staple products		
	SP 3.5 Market-oriented rural infrastructure		
	SP 3.6 Strengthening rural financial systems		

<b>Programme 4. Institutional development</b>		
	SP 4.1 Institutional strengthening and capacity building	
	SP 4.2 The policy and regulatory framework for the sector	
	SP 4.3 Agricultural statistics and ICT	
	SP 4.4 M&E systems and coordination of the agricultural sector	
	SP 4.5 The decentralisation programme in agriculture	

